NEW!

ELITE FORCES AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS

RAIDER MAGAZINE

Vol. 1 Issue 2 June 2008

ON PATROL
US 82nd Airborne

REVIEWED
THE HISTORY OF ELITE & SPECIAL FORCES

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION
Army Combat Uniform (ACU)

NEW SECTION
TRIED & TESTED

DEPLOYMENT ESSENTIALS
The small things that make life on deployement that little bit more bareable

GEAR ESSENTIALS
PARACLETE PLATE CARRIER
BOLLE GOGGLES

SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE

FIREARMS
Sniper System Improvement Programme

GIBRALTAR
PER MARE PER TERRAM

ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?
Have you got what it takes to become a Royal Marine Commando

BATTLEFIELD MOBILITY
EH101 Merlin Helicopter

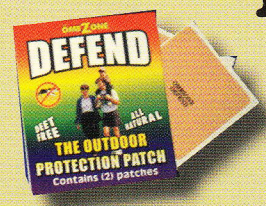
SELECTIVE FREE DISTRIBUTION TO DEPLOYED BRITISH FORCES IN THEATRE

JUNE 2008 £4.00

Bushcraft

FRONT LINE

Insect Repellent
Protection against biting insects
CL123



Insect Repellent Patches
All natural vitamin B protection
CL121

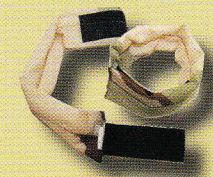
Steridex Hand Cleanser
Anti bacterial, water free hand wash
CL450

All-weather Skin Protector
Protective barrier cream
CL120

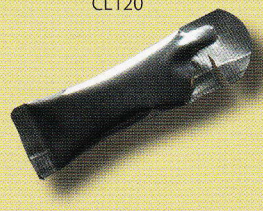
Silvasan Soap
Silver ion enriched soap
CS133

Hot Weather Hat
Heat relief for up to 8 hours
CL087S

Neck Cooling Scarf
Heat relief for up to 3 days
CL085S



Wrist coolers
Heat relief for up to 4 hours
CL091



Dehydrated Water
Liquid electrolyte improves water absorption
CR041

Micropur
Fast effective water disinfection
CR087

Camelbak Bottle
Spill proof & shatter proof
CR096

Lifesaver Water Bottle
Sterile water in 30 seconds
CR128

Nato Water Bottle & Mug
Classic 58 pattern
CR244B

Thermal Flask
0.4 litre, spill proof
CR083B

Stainless insulated Mug
Double skinned, lockable mug
CR045

Crusader System
Available in stainless or non-stick
CN007S

Ethanol Gel Fuel
Non toxic & environmentally friendly
CN333

Matchless Fire Set (Nato)
CN335A

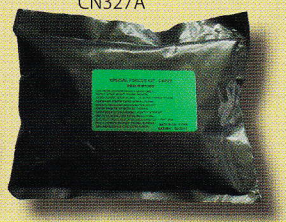
Survival Matches
Wind & waterproof
CN327A

Fireball Flint & Striker
Up to 5000 strikes per flint
CN330A

Combat Survival Tin
The original & the best
CK015

Military Survival Tin
Upgraded & vacuum packed
CK019

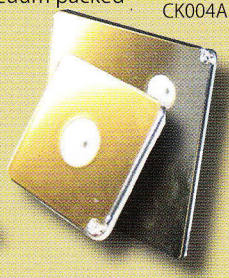
Ultimate Survival Tin
Everything you need in one tin
CK004A



Special Forces survival Kit
Designed by & for the SAS
CK028

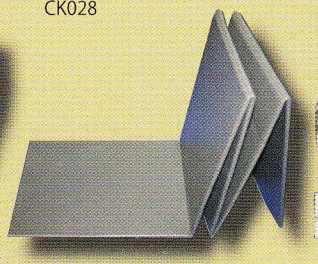
Emergency Ration
24 hour sustenance
CP670

Shemaghs
Multi- purpose head wear
CB224



Mayday Signalling Mirrors
Up to 30 mile reflectivity
CK324

Blister Fix
Essential field kit
RM237B



Flat Mate
A versatile fold flat sleeping mat
CT650

Light Sticks
Emergency illumination
CE570R

BCB INTERNATIONAL

Authorised suppliers to the MOD for over 40 years
- You're safe in our hands

SURVIVAL

Motherlode

One of the most comfortable packs Camelbak® have ever produced. With 35 litres of storage and a 3 litre Omega bladder, the Motherlode™ comes highly recommended by UK Airborne Forces.

£75.00
CR022C

UBACS

Under Body Armour Combat Shirt

£29.95
CB220

£49.95
CB220

- Designed for body armour
- Lightweight & breathable
- Fast wicking
- IRR British desert camo sleeves
- Drifire® version fire retardant

Also features:
- Padded shoulders
- Large patch pockets
- Padded elbows
- Padded arms
- Lower arm pockets
- Adjustable cuffs
- Available in sizes S - XL

CamelBak Glove Range

Max Grip™
£69.96
CB152

Vent™
£19.75
CB140

Hi Tec Impact II CT™
£39.49
CB123

Fast Fit™
£22.95
CB129

Magnum Force™
£69.95
CB149

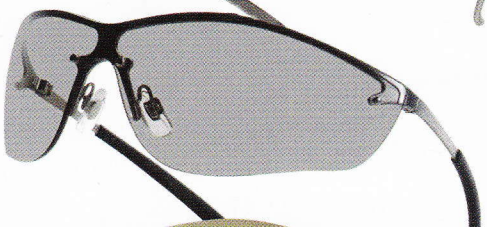
Available from Survival Aids www.survivalaids.com
April Court Sybron Way, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 3DZ, UK
Tel: 01892 610181 Fax: 01892 662280 Email: enquires@survivalaids.com

New from bollé

the experts in eye protection

X900

Silium



X1000

X500

Commando

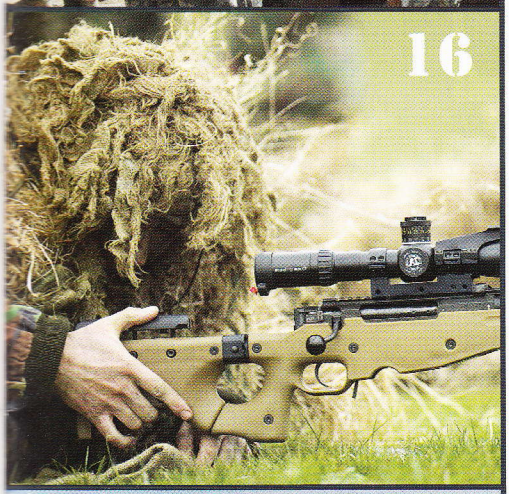
Are you using the right protection?
Isn't it time you took a fresh look
at your protection?
Contact Bolle today

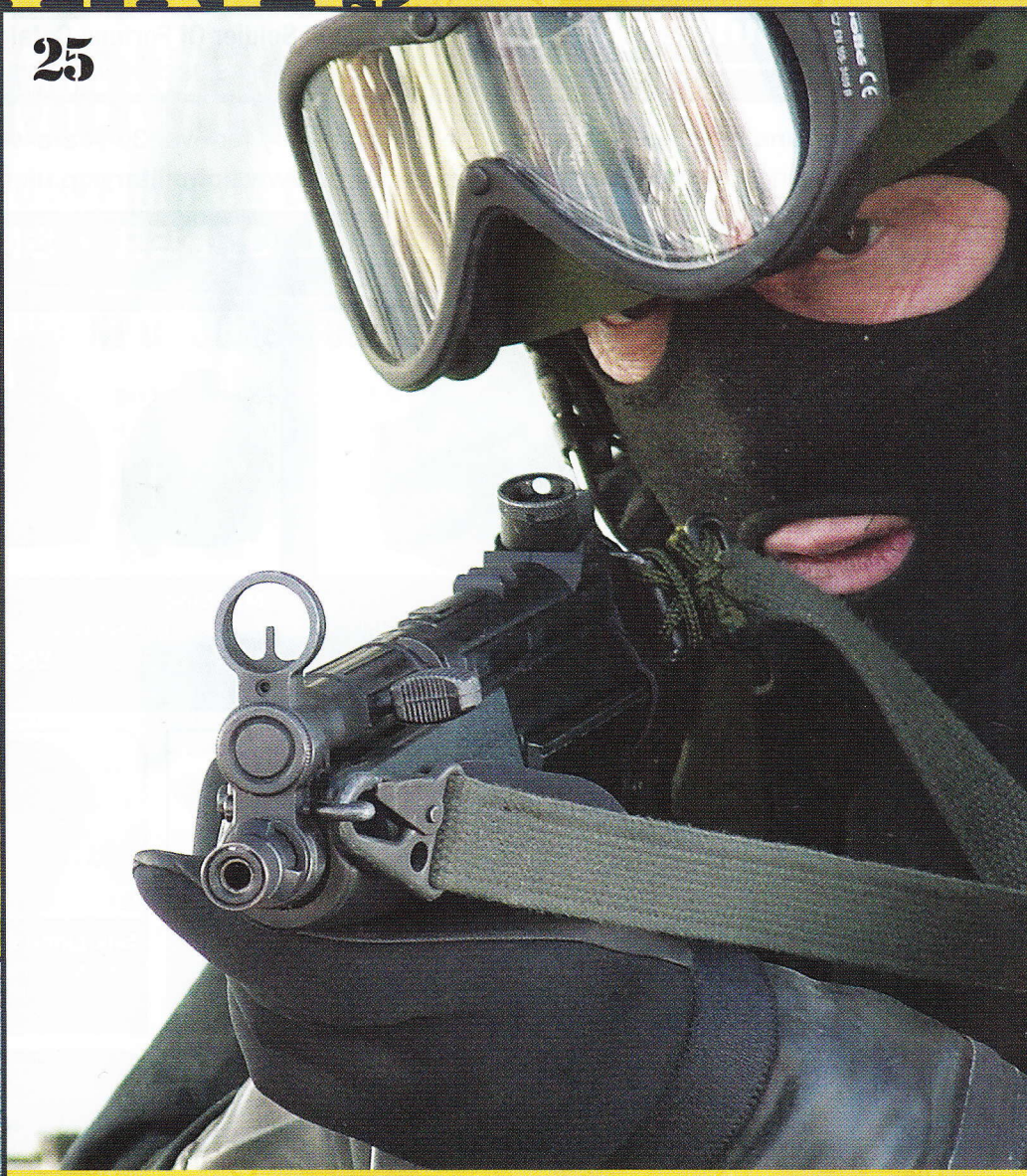
Alexis Elmer
Bollé Safety
Barwell Business Park
Leatherhead Road
Chessington
Surrey
KT9 2NY

Tel. **0208 391 4700**
Fax. **0208 391 4733**
Email. **sales@bolle-safety.co.uk**
Web site: **www.bolle-safety.com**

RAIDER MAGAZINE
Vol. 1 Issue 2 June 2008

CONTENTS





6 TRIED & TESTED
On the front line.

13 SUBSCRIBE
Subscribe to Raider and receive a free gift.

14 INCOMING
your letters answered.

16 FIRE POWER
Sniper System Improvement Programme.

20 ON PATROL
US 82nd Airborne.

25 UNIT PROFILE
The British SBS.

30 DEPLOYMENT ESSENTIALS
The little things that will make your deployment that little bit more bearable.

32 ARCHIVES
WWI German Trench Raiders Part II.

36 MANUFACTURES PROFILE
Arktis

40 GEAR BAG
Paraclete Plate Carrier, Bolle Goggles.

42 CAMO
Raider explores the sometimes weird and wonderful world of Camouflage. This issue Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

46 BATTLEFIELD MOBILITY
EH 101 Merlin Helicopter

49 ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?
Royal Marine Commando Training Course

52 COMPETITION
One lucky winner will walk away with a Camelbak Mother Load Hydration system.

www.raider-mag.com

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

www.sofmilitary.co.uk

2008 Soldier Of Fortune Catalogue now available for just £2.00
100 pages packed with the latest military and survival kit!

Soldier Of Fortune have been supplying the British military for over **30 years** we have the largest selection of kit from desert to jungle warfare, you can buy it on-line at **www.sofmilitary.co.uk** or from our mail order catalogue.

SPECIAL OFFER • SPECIAL OFFER • SPECIAL OFFER

P.L.C.E.
Tactical Assault Vest MK IV
£79.99

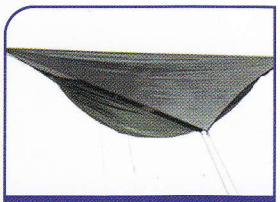
P.L.C.E.
Patrol Sack Export Model
£39.99

Montane
Extreme pile Smock
Green or Black **£59.99**

SAS Windproof trousers
Desert **£29.99**
DPM **£49.99**

PLCE Grab bag
DPM or desert
£39.99

MOLLE drop leg
Dump pouch **£24.99**
Twin mag pouch **£24.99**



Hennessy Hammock
Expedition asym
£79.99

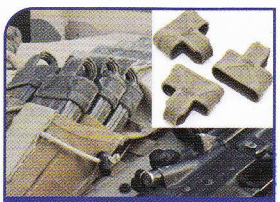
Silk Lined Beret
Rifles, Marine,Para, Khaki, RAF, Navy, Black, RMP, Welsh, AAC Mercian, Yorkshire, Intel. **£14.99**

Pathfinder Webbing
Webbing set all pouches are fixed to hip pad.
£120.00

Operators Glove
Hatch Hard Knuckle
£39.99

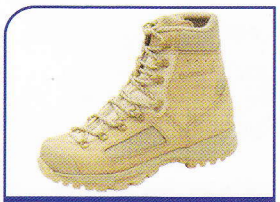
Helly Hensen
COOL T Shirt **£20**
Dry "Lifa" Long sleeve **£25**
Warm Long Sleeve **£40**

Softie Elite 3 season **£59.99**
Softie Elite 4 season **£64.99**
Softie Elite 5 Season **£69.99**



Mag Pulls
To fit SA80/M16 mags Black, Green or sand **5 for £10**

X- TAK
Knee pads **£19.99**
Elbow Pads **£14.99**

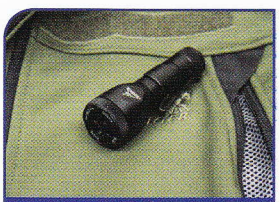


Lowa Desert Elite **£115**
Lowa Mountain **£135**
Lowa Combat **£145**

Petzl Tikka **£24.99**
Petzl Tac Tikka **£29.99**
Petzl Tac Tikka Plus **£34.99**

Jet Boil
Complete Stove with pan
£59.99

Tailored Boonie
Short brimmed boonie hat
Desert or DPM **£7.99**



Gerber Recon
Compact military torch with coloured lenses
Special price £19.99

Unit 18, Tyn-y-Llidiart Ind Estate,
Corwen, North Wales,
United Kingdom LL21 9RQ

tel: 01490 412225
fax: 01490 412205
www.sofmilitary.co.uk

FOR A CATALOGUE
call 01490 412225 or
email: sales@sofmilitary.co.uk

FOREWORD

HOW TO CONTACT US

PUBLISHING

Publishing Editor: **Paul Monaf**
Tel +44 1622 692 885 paul@ebcon.co.uk
Administrative Director: **Sharon Monaf**
Tel + 44 1622 692 885 sharon@ebcon.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Staff Writer: **Alan Wakefield**

Staff Writer: **Dave Devenney RN Commando**

Staff Writer: **John Mckenzie**

Staff Writer: **Frank Anderson**

Staff Writer: **Simon Chambers**

Art Editor: **Leyton Edwards**

Designer: **Darren Grinter**

ADVERTISING

Group Sales Manager: **Jason Veall**
Tel + 44 1622 692 885 Fax +44 1622 683093
Jason@ebcon.co.uk

PUBLISHING

Ebcon Publishing 2 Shaw Close, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent Me14 5DN.
Tel +44 1622 692 885 Fax +44 1622 683093

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

New Century Design The Mews, Eaglewood Park, Dillington Estate, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DQ. Tel 01460 259373

PRINTED BY

The Magazine Printing Company PLC, www.magprint.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Odyssey Publishing Services, 7 St. Andrews Way, Devons Road, London E3 3PA.

ebcon publishing ltd.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles in this magazine, the publishers do not accept liability for any incorrect statement or errors contained in material from independent sources or authors that may be reproduced from time to time. Reproduction in whole or part of any text, photography or illustration in any form without permission from the publishers/editor is strictly prohibited. We welcome articles, photographs or artwork, however, Raider cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to unsolicited material. Please enclose a sae if you wish your material to be returned.

Competitions will be judged on the 20th day of the month following publication and winner's names will be published at the earliest opportunity. No correspondence will be entered into and the judge's decision is final. In the event of the published prize not being available due to circumstances beyond the control of the magazine, a suitable alternative of similar value will be provided.

Raider Magazine has Official Selective Free Distribution to British Troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan

MOVING ON

TO SAY THAT THE LAUNCH ISSUE OF RAIDER WAS SUCCESSFUL WOULD BE ARROGANT AND PRESUMPTUOUS TO SAY THE LEAST, BUT BOY HAS RAIDER CREATED A HUGE AMOUNT OF COMS TRAFFIC.

HOW DO YOU GAGE SUCCESS? WELL for us here at Ebcon its pretty simple Raider has only been on sale for a few days and not even hit our troops in theatre yet and already the switchboard is humming with Raider enquiries.

The first issue was tough; we as publishers had to get the balance right for you guys and I believe that we're almost there. Remember that this is your magazine and your comments and feedback are vital to us to make Raider more of what you want. Talking of which "Tried and Tested- On the Front line" goes live in this issue with Dave Devenney RM Commando at the helm. Dave has almost 25 years of service under his belt, a career that has seen him deploy to the Falkland's and most recently Afghanistan.

Dave's "No BS" approach will tell it as it is, does kit available to today's troops stand up to the job on the front line? Turn to page 6 to find out more.

In are you tough enough this month we kick off our serialisation of one of the toughest training courses of any Armed forces. The Royal Marine Commando course. Over the coming months we'll document what you have to achieve to win a coveted Green Beret. Alongside we'll be profiling the Royal Navy's ultra secretive Special Boat Service. We're On Patrol this month with the US Army's 82nd Airborne. Whilst we take a look around the EH 101 Merlin Helicopter in Battle Field Mobility, we'll be looking at personal kit in Deployment Essential. Gear reviews this month come in the form of The US based Paraclete Plate Carrier, Bolle Goggles and BCB's UBACS under Armour Shirt

Profiles on Arktis and a look at the Sniper System Improvement Programme and Army Combat Uniform (ACU) around off another action packed edition of Raider.

Kick back stay awhile and enjoy the ride.

Remember Raider is your magazine, if you're a front line troop of a military enthusiast and you have something to say? What better place than Raider to get it off your chest.

Paul
Publishing Editor

Raider Magazine is Proud to support British Frontline troop's wherever they may be.

Staged photograph of SBS.

TRIED & TESTED

ON THE FRONT LINE

DAVE DEVENNEY JOINED THE Royal Marines in 1980 after four years serving as a cop in Glasgow city centre. He was quote, after 'a bit more of a challenge' and the Marines 'many called-few chosen' promised to offer exactly that.

It turned out to be a bit more of a challenge than he expected when he broke his leg during training and had to overcome not only his injury but also fight back to peak fitness in order to pass out and win his beret. Win it he did and with his Commando training behind him he was posted to 42 Commando Royal Marines. After Arctic Warfare Training with the unit in Northern Norway he sailed to the South Atlantic with the Task Force on 'Op CORPORATE' to help persuade the Argentine forces holding the islands that it was time to go. Landing in the initial wave he fought eastwards until the eventual surrender at Port Stanley.

Over the years he has served around the Corps including a two year stint with Special Forces based at Royal Marines Poole. He has seen active service in Iraq and Afghanistan and is currently serving on the staff of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines based in Devon.

ON PATROL' GO OR BATTLE BAG

» These grabs bags have been around now for a while and I saw lots of different variations on the theme during my time with SF operators and even on ops with the mainstream Corps. They are a pretty good idea and one I suspect that has been in some part borrowed from the Vietnam War experience where the VC used just this kind of battle bag that could be packed and lifted at the rush and worn on the back, side or front. The idea being that the bag allows you to carry all your essentials in your vehicle or over your shoulder when you need to get in the fight quickly.

The trial bag was from 'On Patrol' and arrived in Desert DPM and I am not aware if the material is IRR reflective or not. The overall design is pretty good with a large over flap that has a concealed transparent map case on the underside. Once this is lifted the external body of the bags has Molle loops which, in this case, had four M4/AK pouches attached.

This particular bag came 'empty' and what I mean by that is that in the best examples of these bags inside the main compartment you would normally have a selection of dividers housing all the bits you need like radio, batteries, more mags, a torch etc without them it makes it considerably less easy to lay your hands on what you need quickly. Again, other examples have a bespoke pistol and magazine hostel built in. This one heads in that direction in that there is a Velcro fastened compartment in side that has elasticated straps that would allow you to slot in pistol mags etc.

In general, I found that whilst the overall design wasn't bad the devil was in the detail. The Cordura used in this bag isn't of the toughest denier and would not survive contact for long in a harsh environment or constantly getting banged in and out of a vehicle. There are Molle tapes as I have described but they are not of the best quality material. Single stitching is used in most places which is a bit of a liability and there is a distinct absence of piping on the most vulnerable contact points which risk fraying and damage. The main zip running right across the bag is adequate but I would have liked to have seen a 'chunkier' Bergen-quality zip on a bag like this

There is a small grenade pouch on one end, it would take a HE grenade but not a flash bang or smoke and is only secured by Velcro when it should really be Velcro and a snap fastner.

It comes with a waist belt and shoulder strap and unfortunately once again it lets itself down in that the shoulder strap has no padding and after humping a bag with ammo and grenades all day I would soon be cursing this oversight. In the same vein the belt provided is not as robust as I would liked to have seen and I get the feeling that on extended ops it would soon be pulling off my waist.

To sum up then, this is a good but not great bag. The problem 'On Patrol' will face is that the really good examples are actually not that much more expensive than this one if you take the time to look around.

Cost **Call for prices and availability**

Available from
On Patrol Tactical Gear Ltd
51A Atherton Road
Ilford, Essex, IG5 0PQ
Tel: + (44) 208 551 1535
Email: info@onpatrol.co.uk
Website: www.onpatrol.co.uk

CAMELBAK "MAGNUM FORCE" TACTICAL GLOVES

Sticking with all things CamelBak, having fairly recently acquired another US company – Southwest Motorsports Enterprises they have now jumped into the tactical glove industry. From the look of these trial gloves they are about to make quite a splash.

When the gloves arrived I was gutted to find that although I could (just) squeeze my great, big extra large hands into them it probably wouldn't represent a fair trial in terms of comfort and fit. To that end I (reluctantly) handed them over to one of our Royal Marines Corporals to put them through their paces. He is a member of our Field Training Staff here at the Commando Training Centre and he and his team provide 'professional enemy' to our recruits and young officers under training. He is also a marksman and shoots regularly for the Corps so the gloves were literally in good hands. First up – first impressions:

The test pair were in black and came with all the usual refinements – Kevlar knuckle protection, reinforced Kevlar pad in the palm of the hand and reinforcing in the inside surface of each finger offering great protection whilst roping and when pushing your body weight off rough ground. Each finger tip and the thumb have digitally textured leather offering good tactile 'stickiness' offering control and sensitivity whilst working with weapons and kit. Along the back of each finger there are high-density rubber or leather protection to keep your little digits extra safe. They really have thought of everything.

On the inside the spec remains high with a comfortable friction-dispersing Nomex lining and seam-free stitching. The gloves are ergonomically designed to provide a good fit and are secured on the inner wrist to fit by means of a Velcro adjustable tab. Each glove also has a handy piece of para-cord material to securely crab your gloves onto your rig. So, after a few weeks hard wear on Woodbury Common, Dartmoor and Brecon what was our Corporal's verdict – 'A hoofing pair of gloves in every respect… best gloves I've ever worn and when it comes to buying a new pair of gloves it's got to be these…' Speaks for itself really.

Cost **£79.95 Plus P&P**

Available from
Survival Aids
Units 9/14 April Court
Jarvis Brook
East Sussex
TN6 3DZ
Tel: 01892610181
Fax: 01892 662280
Email: enquiries@survivalaids.com
Website: www.survivalaids.com

RITE IN THE RAIN

Anyone who has spent any time in the military will know the joys and sorrows of training in Scotland and Wales. I'm a Scot and will robustly defend the unique qualities of my country's weather at the drop of a beret however, on the odd occasion; it has been known to get a wee bit damp. Over the years I have tried all the usual suspects – laminates and lumocolors, pencils under ponchos you name it and they all work, after a fashion, but, when you're standing in a 30 mile an hour wind and its 'chuckin' it down on an exercise half way up a glen in 'Kinlochjock' with your notebook turning to porridge in your hands you need 'Rite in the Rain'. Yep, it's American and guess what it really works.

It comes in A5 notebooks, fillers for your tactical filofax and more. The paper is bomb-proof, well maybe not exactly bomb-proof but water and tear-proof. The pages have a fine-grain texture that grabs the ink from pens and graphite from pencils and hangs on to it even in the most hostile conditions – from Brecon to Belize. Pencils work fine, ordinary do too but will sometimes skip on the page although the company does offer their own brand pen guaranteed to work well with the product no matter how wet it gets. 'Rite in the Rain' boasts that using this pen with their paper you can even write under water – I'll pass that one over to my mates in Poole.

Cost **From £4.10**

Available from
RVOps
The Royal Citadel
Plymouth
Devon PL1 2PD
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1752 236143
Military: 93784 6143
Fax: +44 (0)1752 672075
Website: www.rvops.co.uk

Drop Zone Supplies

Unit LB6, The Cattle Market,
Hereford HR4 9HX
E: hereford@army-surplus.co.uk
T/F: 01432 343 253
OPENING HOURS
Tues - Sat 10.00-18.00

BLACKHAWK! SF SUREFIRE OAKLEY 5.11 TACTICAL SERIES

BFPO TAX FREE SHOPPING

"CONTACT, WAIT OUT"

When you are in this situation, worrying about the kit you are carrying is not an option!

Mail Order HQ

Unit 3, West Oxon Ind Park,
Norton Way, Brize Norton,
Oxon OX18 3YJ
E: sales@army-surplus.co.uk
T: 08456 44 50 60
OPENING HOURS
Mon - Fri 09.00-17.30

Drop Zone Supplies

Online Store: www.army-surplus.co.uk

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

& RECEIVE A FREE VIPER DUMP POUCH

WORTH £19.95

12 ISSUES FOR £45.00

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheques and PO's made payable to **ebcon publishing ltd**

Order on line at **www.raider-mag.com**

Credit Card ordering hot line

Telephone: **+44 1622 692 885**

(Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

All major credit and debit cards accepted

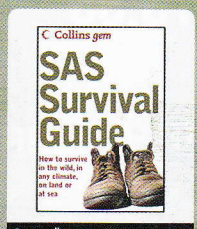
AMERICAN EXPRESS SWITCH SOLO VISA

ebcon publishing ltd.

www.meanandgreen.com

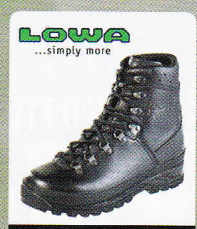
Viper LA
Special Forces Vest....£29.95

Alpha Industries
MA1 Flight Jacket.....£74.95



Best-selling
SAS Survival Guide.....£4.95

Viper Tactical
Leg Holster.....£19.95



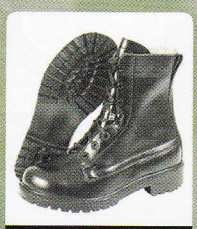
Lowa Gore-Tex
Mountain Boots.....£135

Genuine Issue British
Combat Jacket.....£14.95

5.11 Cotton
Tactical Pants.....£39.95

Genuine Issue
US Fishtail Parka.....£59.95

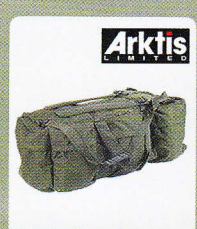
Vintage Stonewashed
Combat Shorts.....£19.95


British Leather
Assault Boots.....from £24.95

5m x 5m
Camo Netting.....£69.95

5.11 Tac-AK
Kevlar Gloves.....£42.95

Jack Pyke Stockman
Camo Lock Knife.....£19.95



Arktis Loadout
80 Litre Kit Bag.....£64.95

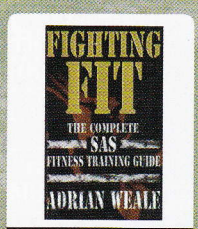
Jura Single Hoop
2 Man Tent.....£34.95

Two Colour
Camo Face Paint.....£2.95

German
Flecktarn Shirt.....£8.95

5.11 Heavy Duty
Operator Belt.....£34.95

Fleece Lined
Windbreaker.....£24.95



Fighting Fit
SAS Training Guide.....£5.95

Wide Range
of Badges.....from £3.95

Kids Badged
MA1 Flight Jacket.....£24.95

Vintage
3/4 Length Pants.....£24.95

Web-tex Treble
Utility Pouch.....£32.95

5.11 Long Sleeved
Tactical Shirt.....£39.95

Forces 25 Litre
Rucksack.....£24.95

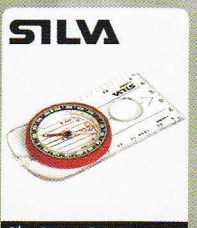
Genuine Issue
Parade Shoes.....from £12.95

Web-tex
Concealment Vest.....£34.95

Alpha Industries
M65 Field Jacket.....£74.95

Web-tex Combat
Vest with Bladder.....£89.95

German Army
Poncho.....£19.95



Silva Ranger 3
Compass.....£19.95

Vintage M65
Regiment Jacket.....£64.95

Lightweight
Dry Sacks.....from £9.95

Genuine Issue
Soldier 95 Shirt.....£6.95

Plain Olive
Green T-Shirt.....£5.95

Acrylic Fur Soviet
Style Cossack Hats.....£19.95

PLCE
Belt Adaptor.....£1.50

RAF, Army and Cadet
Rank Slides.....from £1.95

Web-tex Machete
with Sheath.....£18.95

Camouflage
Boxer Shorts.....£4.95

German Style Fleece
Lined Tank Suit.....£44.95

View many more items with real-time stock info at **www.meanandgreen.com** Standard UK Delivery £3.95, Next Day Service £7.95

Tel 08458 991133 **Visit our store: 17 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1EA**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
12 ISSUES FOR £45.00

LAUNCH ISSUE OFFER
FREE WEB-TEX FIELD SURVIVAL KIT

KIT INCLUDES

- » QUALITY SNAP KNIFE
- » FIRE STARTER
- » CANDLE
- » COMBAT WIRE SAW
- » COMPASS
- » FISHING KIT

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheques and PO's made payable to **ebcon publishing ltd**

Order on line at **www.raider-mag.com**

Credit Card ordering hot line
Telephone: **+44 1622 692 885**
(Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

All major credit and debit cards accepted

AMERICAN EXPRESS · SWITCH · SOLO · VISA

ebcon publishing ltd.

» INCOMING «

DO YOU WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH with friends and family, either in training, on deployment or in the services? Then this is the place to do it. Raider's unique circulation will reach your loved ones wherever they're based.

If you have an anniversary or birthday to celebrate or just want the world to know how proud you are of a serving family member or friend then drop us a line and we'll make it happen for you. Each letter published will receive a free Neck cooling scarf courtesy of BCB International.

EMAILS TO incoming@ebcon.co.uk

LETTERS TO Incoming, Raider Magazine, Ebcon Publishing Ltd, 2 Shaw Close Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5 DN.

Raider is circulated to British Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, through the NAAFI and is also available through the worlds news trade.

RAIDER ebcon publishing ltd.

EVERY LETTER PUBLISHED WILL RECEIVE A FREE NECK COOLING SCARF COURTESY OF

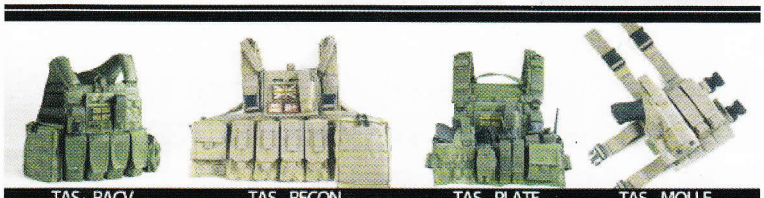
BCB INTERNATIONAL

Trojan Group UK Ltd

Trojan improving human performance in high risk situations through the provision of specialist tactical equipment

www.trojangroupuk.com

Full range of Templar Assault Systems
Free Blood Group & Allergy Patches



TAS - RACV COMPLETE | TAS - RECON CHEST HARNESS | TAS - PLATE CARRIER | TAS - MOLLE HOLSTER & PANEL

- **LOWA Full Range in Stock all sizes** Free Next Day Delivery — LOWA ...simply more
- **Snugpak** Full range of code green products — Snugpak
- **Rite in the Rain – Full range in Desert & OD** — Rite in the Rain ALL-WEATHER WRITING PAPER

Original Sniper Tape – Both OD Green & Desert Tan

VAT Free sales to Qualifying BFPO including PSD's

Tel: 0845 4025178 Fax: 0845 4025179
sales@trojangroupuk.com | www.trojangroupuk.com

SAGE PRODUCTS INC

THE TROJAN GROUP
EXCLUSIVE SOLE DISTRIBUTOR TO THE MILTARY AND OUTDOOR MARKETS OF
SAGE® HYGIENE PRODUCTS
Those who serve, deserve the best!

+ Over 1 million used in Iraq and Afghanistan

Sage personal hygiene products deliver portable cleansing and skin protection anywhere our troops go without access to clean, safe water. Each lightweight, disposable package is a welcome relief for soldiers subjected to long hours and harsh climates.

Sage Rinse-Free Deodorant Body Washcloths deliver head-to-toe cleansing, aloe and vitamin E moisturizing and advanced odor protection with our exclusive ingredient, Exopheryl™ Odor Eliminator.

Sage Rinse-Free Foot & Groin Skin-Protecting Washcloths cleanse the skin and apply a long-lasting, protective barrier that helps relieve and prevent chafed or chapped skin.

For wholesale or your nearest stockist contact:
Tel: 0845 4025178 Fax: 0845 4025179
sales@trojangroupuk.com | www.trojangroupuk.com

ELITE SPIDER

THE LIGHTEST, QUIETEST AND MOST ATHLETIC

SPECIES OF TACTICAL FOOTWEAR EVER MADE.

- ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT & BREATHABLE
- FIT FOR PURPOSE, ACCREDITED TO EUROPEAN STANDARD EN ISO 20347
- NUMBER ONE BEST SELLER IN USA
- EXCLUSIVE MAGNUM VIBRAM® OUTSOLE

MAGNUM®
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT™

For further information contact MAGNUM
T: +44 0 1702 541771 E: contact@magnumfootwear.co.uk W: www.magnumboots.com
MAGNUM EUROPE Aviation Way, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6GH.

SPECIFICATIONS

SNIPER RIFLE L96

CALIBRE (MM):	7.62mm
WEIGHT (KG) WEAPONS:	6.5kg
30 ROUNDS MAG. EMPTY:	80 kph
LENGTH (ADJUSTABLE) :	1124-1194mm
MUZZLE VELOCITY:	838m/s
FEED:	10-round box magazine
EFFECTIVE RANGE:	900m, harassing fire 1100m

LONG RANGE RIFLE L115A3

CALIBRE (MM):	8.59mm
WEIGHT (KG) WEAPONS:	6.8kg
30 ROUNDS MAG. EMPTY:	80 kph
LENGTH (ADJUSTABLE) :	1300mm
MUZZLE VELOCITY:	936mm
FEED:	5-round box magazine
EFFECTIVE RANGE:	1100mm plus

LONG RANGE

A SNIPER SYSTEM WHICH WILL EQUIP SNIPERS IN THE ARMED FORCES WITH MORE POWER, PRECISION AND STEALTH THAN EVER BEFORE HAS BEEN UNVEILED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WORDS **SIMON CHAMBERS** PICTURES **ANDREW LINNETT**

AS PART OF AN ONGOING £4 MILLION contract the British Army are to be equipped with a new sniper rifle. The Accuracy International L96 sniper rifle has been upgraded with a new x 3-x 12 x 50 sight and spotting scope. It was designed as a first round kill weapon at 600m and able to put down accurate harassing fire up to 1100m. Now selected units have been issued with the L115A3 Long Range Rifle (LRR). Snipers from 16 Air Assault Brigade, who deployed on operations in March, have already put the new L115A3 rifle through its paces, firing at targets with pinpoint accuracy from 900. Already issued to Parachute Regiment and Commando units it has been undergoing operational field trials and been proving its worth in Afghanistan.

Recently I was fortunate enough to attend a fire power demonstration at the British Armies sniper training facility at Warminster. I and members of the press were treated to an impressive display of professional marksmanship and sniper skills. Surrounded by members of the media eager to examine the rifle a young Infantry Sergeant rattled off a series of facts and figures designed to impress the most professional of weapons experts. His enthusiasm for the new sniper rifle was easy to see and that in itself was proof that the MOD had finally produced a piece of equipment any soldier would be proud to use. In the Parachute Regiment I had been trained on the SLR and had been a No1 on the General Purpose Machine Gun so I am used to carrying heavy and awkward Small Arms. So when I heard others in the press tent discussing the weight and how it was slightly heavier than the original version of the sniper rifle I had to see for myself what they considered heavy. At 6.8 kg I thought it was a very light, well balanced rifle and the snipers I spoke to assured me it was no problem to hump on a speed march or when getting into a fire position.

Compared with the L96 which fires the NATO 7.62mm round, the L115A3 fires an 8.59mm round. There is no such thing as a flesh wound with this baby. Being a heavier round means its less prone to wind deflection and increases its accuracy. Usually the long barrel of a sniper rifle makes its carrier easily distinguishable from others in his section or platoon and would in turn make him an easy target for an anti-sniper team. Snipers are taught to look for premium targets and these are normally Officers, Radio operators, Machine gun crews and of course any snipers, who would be seen as a bonus. The army has listened to the soldier on the ground and his suggestions and as well as the L115A3s ability to strip down to a small package it has its own carry pack. Once in the pack the sniper blends into his unit and looks like any other soldier on the battlefield advancing with his L85A2 personal rifle commonly referred to as the SA80. I asked a Paratrooper sniper what his unit thought of the new rifle in the field. He smiled as he told me that they had hit armed targets at extreme ranges and was more than happy with it.

Using up to date laser range finding instruments to assist target acquisition they

RIFLE L115A3

can now kill hard to hit targets. For instance the terrorist trying to use innocent civilians as human shields will now find this a fatally bad idea. This cuts out the danger of collateral damage. "With this weapon, what you aim at is what you kill" another sniper told me. Another member of the media asked the SSM in charge of the display if his soldiers had to be put through a psychiatric evaluation process now that they would clearly see the face of the man they would inevitably kill. He was politely informed that every soldier in the British Army be it male or female is trained to kill an enemy close up and this was not a problem. Yes, I thought it was a pretty stupid question too. However the sniper does have to have just that little bit more than the average soldier. Apart from having to be an expert shot, have great patience and a cool head before he even applies for the course. He has to be physically fit and have a certain type of 'Mind set'. During his training he must be able to develop the stalking skills of an expert hunter and the patience of a saint. I'm a reasonable shot with a rifle but it never occurred to me to go for selection as a sniper. When I went through my Weapons and Tactics course at Warminster the Sniper course had already started. Each day as we came back from the ranges we would see them coming in dressed in their Gilly suits, covered in mud and completely exhausted. I thought my course was tough but six weeks later as we finished our course and were given our pass marks these guys were still coming in from the ranges covered in mud but completely exhausted. Only now there was only a few of them left on the course. The rest having rejected along the way. I didn't envy them one bit. It seemed too much like hard work to me.

"WITH THIS WEAPON, WHAT YOU AIM AT IS WHAT YOU KILL"

In the First and Second World Wars, the sniper would work alone, sometimes stalking the enemy for days. Now all that has changed with sniper and anti-sniper operations becoming a daily occurrence. The Brigade commander will now have a dedicated platoon of snipers that can be put anywhere on the battlefield he feels their skills are needed. Equipped with the new L115A3 rifle a typical four man sniper section, working in pairs, one shooter and one spotting can now take out Taliban fighters hidden in the rocky terrain of Afghanistan. Using the new All weather, day and night sights issued with the weapon, ambushes against coalition forces can now be identified earlier and taken out at greater distance and with a greater degree of accuracy than ever before. All the snipers I spoke to were looking forward to using the rifle operationally. I found the presentation very professional, informative and I might add, enjoyable. All questions asked were answered. No one was at any time evasive or secretive and all the team responsible for developing the rifle were justifiable proud of their achievement. Anything that saves British soldiers lives by killing an enemy before he can get into range to shoot our blokes has my vote and the L115A3 can certainly do that. It brings to mind a T-shirt I once saw worn by a US Marine sniper in Bosnia. "Don't run away. Why die tired".

The British firm Accuracy International Ltd based in Portsmouth produce the L115A3 rifle and the Day sights are manufactured by Schmidt & Bender.

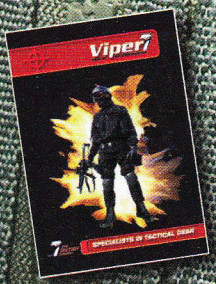
ALL NEW EXCLUSIVELY BY VIPER

Viper
TOUGH KIT FOR TOUGH SITUATIONS

DIGITAL DPM

THE NEXT STEP...

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PATTERN
DESIGNED USING PROVEN TECHNOLOGY



For your local stockist and free catalogue call 01234 740327 or log-on to

viperkit.co.uk

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS
THATCHREED LIMITED
www.thatchreed.co.uk

ALL NEW EXCLUSIVELY BY VIPER

THE NEXT STEP...
DIGITAL DPM

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PATTERN DESIGNED USING PROVEN TECHNOLOGY

Viper TOUGH KIT FOR TOUGH SITUATIONS

£29.95 **LA Special Forces Vest** VVESLADDPM

£29.95 **South African Vest** VVESSADDPM

£45.00 **Assault Vest Platform** VMASVESP00DDP

£32.00 **Modular Chest Harness** VMCHES01DDPM

£11.95 **Belt Platform** VMBELP13DDPM

£18.50 **Drop Leg Platform** VMDLP02DDPM

£12.50 **Modular Adjustable Holster** VMHADJ19DDPM

£29.95 **Adjustable Holster** VMHADJDDPM

£14.95 **Tactical Leg Holster** VHTACRDDPM

£19.95 **M16 Drop Leg Mag Pouch** VPM16DDPM

£19.50 **MP5 Drop Leg Mag Pouch** VPMP5DDPM

£19.95 **Dump Bag** VBAGDUMDDPM

£13.95 **Foldable Dump Bag** VBAGDUMFLDDDPM

£6.95 **Small Utility Pouch** VMUTS05DDPM

£10.95 **Medium Utility Pouch** VMUTM04DDPM

£12.95 **Large Utility Pouch** VMUTL03DDPM

£10.95 **Medics Pouch** VMMED18DDPM

£9.95 **Water Bottle Pouch** VMWBOT16DDPM

£6.95 **GPS Radio Pouch** VMGPS11DDPM

£6.75 **Grenade Pouch** VMGP10DDPM

£11.50 **Ambidextrous Pistol Pouch** VMAMP12DDPM

£4.50 **Pistol Mag Pouch** VMPM14DDPM

£5.25 **Single Mag Pouch** VMSM09DDPM

£9.50 **Double Mag Pouch** VMDM15DDPM

£9.50 **P90 Mag Pouch** VMP9007DDPM

£13.95 **AK Double Mag Pouch** VMAKD08DDPM

£11.95 **MP5 Mag Pouch** VMMP506DDPM

For your local stockist and free catalogue call 01234 740327 or log-on to

viperkit.co.uk

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS THATCHREED LIMITED

www.thatchreed.co.uk

BOURLAND

FRONT LINE STORIES FROM FRONT LINE TROOPS

THE 2-325 AIR, 2ND BDE, 82 ND AIRBORNE IN IRAQ

WORDS SSG SPC DANIEL HOLLAWAY PICTURES SSG JEFFREY TAYLOR

IN THE WINTER OF 2006/2007, sectarian violence ran rampant in Baghdad, Iraq. That December allegedly over 500 Iraqi civilians were confirmed murders in the Shaab, Ur, Beida and Sadr City areas. Sadr City, so called after the father of the current leader of the Mahdi army (JAM), was a poison filled with Shia loyalists hell-bent on paying the Sunnis back for 60 years of oppression. Back home, the powers that be were forming a plan to stabilize Baghdad, and the Surge was born. My unit, the 2-325 AIR, 2nd BDE, 82nd Airborne, was called back from leave on December 27th and told to be ready by January 3rd. Being the nation's quick reaction force, we were more than ready to be the tip of the spear in the Surge. So, on January 3rd, we made ready our weapons and left for Kuwait.

The 2-325 AIR has deployed four times since the beginning of OIF, and the challenge of our current assignment carried no wonder. We knew exactly why we were there, and that was because of our past successes. After clearing Route Irish in OIF 1, quelling tribal fighting in Mosul in OIF 2 and stifling insurgency in Tal Afar in OIF 3, our unit has a reputation for taking the fight to the enemy, no matter the risk. So, when the United States and Iraqi government needed someone to assume battle space in an area that hasn't been occupied by Coalition Forces in two years, the choice was easy.

We arrived in theater in mid-January and settled into a rather large building in the middle of Shaab City which the local population affectionately named the "death blossom." We began to cordon and search the area around our new home and things seemed calm, but we were greeted quite quickly by a small arms attack several days after arriving. After our reaction to this, which entailed a barrage of fire from all calibers, we never received another small arms attack at our COP. We did, however, receive constant attacks from mortars and rockets, and this is what defined the type of patrols we would run throughout the deployment.

Every day we hit the streets, searching for the key to the puzzle of security. We learned quickly that if the people trust us and believe we're there to help, we've taken a huge step in the right direction. Learning and implementing this idea were two very different things, but we are a modular force and are always flexible. Instead of brutalizing the AO with gunfire and aggression, we kept our aggression and turned it towards helping people. The problem with this, however, was simple. As an Iraqi citizen, you can either work a laborer's job and make, at best, a few hundred dollars a month. However, for simply emplacing an IED on the side of the road or being an early alert system for those high in the ranks of JAM, they could make ten times that much for very little work. This is the problem we faced, battling not only the idea of American occupation, but the poverty that ultimately bred crime. Only in Baghdad, crime means the death of Iraqis or American soldiers.

Even with the great influence of Al Sadr, his militia and supporters, we immediately saw results. The local population began approaching our contacts in the city, our chain of command and even us directly while we were on the street patrolling. All the presence patrols, school drops, MEDCAPs and various other types of intervention on behalf of these citizens had paid off, »

and greatly so. The best kind of intelligence is first hand human intelligence. A UAV can only give you a small picture, but human intelligence can paint a portrait of the entire battlefield. We found that there was a certain duality in dialing back our aggression. Not only did the people start to trust us, they started to depend on us for their security as well as other things. Once established as trustworthy and dependable by the local leadership, it was time to start hunting, capturing and killing those who are intent on standing in the way of Iraqi freedom. It was our mission to succeed, and succeed we did.

By the summer of 2007, we had captured what would be the equivalent of a battalion of enemy combatants. In other words, within six months of arriving in theater, we had stabilized our area of operations, one which hadn't seen US forces in 2+ years. We were proud of what we had done and knew it was a great accomplishment, but we also expected this and knew we had to keep going. A lot of work was left to be done, and feeling sorry for ourselves because our deployment got extended wasn't going to help. So, we sucked it up and the dregs of summer were upon us. With temperatures reaching 138°F, things got tough. We had to maintain the same battle rhythm we had since January, but the heat really limited what we were capable of doing. So, every day, we continued to do our two-three hour patrols, visiting Iraqi councilmen, talking to the people, investigating insurgent events in our AO and showing that we were still there.

Maintaining a constant presence became the name of the game, but setting patterns is the quickest way to let the enemy know what you're doing and expose yourself to unnecessary risks. So, we began to mix it up. We did nothing out of the ordinary. Presence patrols, raids on insurgent suspects, observational posts and things are static emplacements in the infantry handbook, but the leadership from combat veterans in our unit proved priceless as they dynamically altered the way we accomplished our mission.

Later in the deployment, we took on the task of training and advising the local Iraqi police. This became an especially difficult challenge as we were used to training soldiers, not policemen, and the attitudes of those separate parts of national security differed greatly, not only tactically but also in how you approach the streets. We overcame these challenges by establishing an additional JSS (joint security station) in inner-Shaab and working daily and directly with the Shaab police force. Once again, the nature of our mission had changed and we'd finally reached the full spectrum of re-establishing a successful, independent Iraqi government.

Anyone who has been in combat knows that things can go from zero-to-firefight in half a second, my section learned this one day in early June 2007. Shortly after the Golden Mosque in Sammara was yet again targeted for attack, a nation-wide no vehicular traffic order was given by the Iraqi government. We set out that week to enforce the standard the government had laid down. Several days into the order, my section was travelling north of our outpost and noticed a car full of military aged males moving at a high rate of speed so we decided to check them out. They whipped around a corner and ran into a dead end and before we could reach them, all four males jumped out of the vehicle and made a run for it, two of them with weapons drawn. A dismount in the rear truck of our convoy stepped out and fired twice at one of the armed men, hitting him in the arm and disabling him. Two of the men got away, though we couldn't know at the time, so we began searching houses in the area. We found a second member of what, after tactical questioning, turned out to be a kidnap/murder team employed by a local JAM battalion. He was hiding under a car with a pistol tossed away from him. After attending to the wounded combatant, we continued to secure the area and waited for another section to show up to assist us.
All of a sudden, a loud "eaaarils" sound came from the East and then an explosion against the turret of our trail hmmv. I looked at my 1SG and he looked at me and yelled "RPG!!" Instantly, we began bounding down the street in pairs towards the direction of the fire, lobbing rounds to gain fire superiority. After receiving no additional fire and feeling a bit spread out, we moved back to our trucks and once again secured the area. Later, we passed our detainees along to the other section who used the tactical questioning we'd done to locate the homes of the other two insurgents. I've always felt that this is a situation that most closely encompassed our abilities and mission. In the span of about forty-five minutes, we pursued enemies mounted and dismounted, kicked in doors and cleared houses, detained suspects and used our tactical sense and questioning to regain contact with the enemy.

Looking back, the biggest challenge of our deployment was shifting from the idea of kicking in doors to the reality of patrolling the streets daily. The 82nd airborne is all about staying alert and aggressive. These two traits go hand-in-hand, but when you lose one of them, the other can fade. Even at war, boredom and a stale feeling can set it, and we struggled daily against becoming lax and complacent. As with most stories about war, our motivation began and ended in one place. We were there to take care of each other.

OIF is a new type of war, one we in the 82nd are not familiar with and not altogether comfortable with, but the accomplishments of our deployment speak for themselves. In December 2006, hundreds of people were reported murdered in our AO. In December 2007, after a year with the White Falcons, there were 15. We pride ourselves on being quiet professionals, rising to whatever challenge we are given. For now, we train, reflect, remember our lost friends and wait for the President's next call.

RV OPS

"where compromise is NOT an option"

- In association with ARRSE
- Online equipment demos
- Regular competitions and newsletters
- Online reviews
- Equipment tested on Ops
- Online Discount Codes

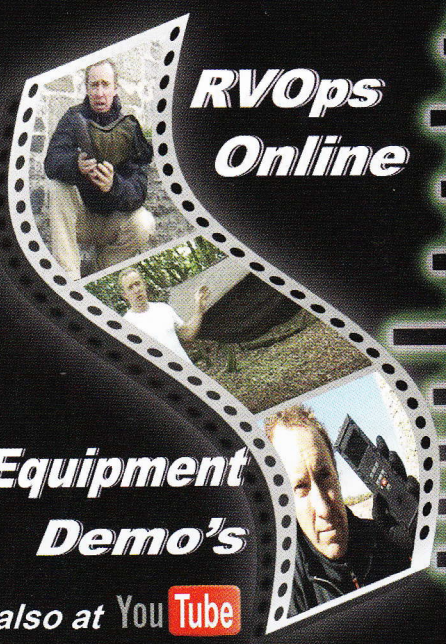
Type in RaiderV2 when placing your order online for a further 10% discount!

OUTLETS

RV-1 Plymouth: 01752 236143
RV-2 Plymouth: Supply Only
RV-3 Brecon: Supply Only
RV-4 Bulford: 01980 673167
RV-5 Edinburgh: 0131 441 9738

www.rvops.co.uk

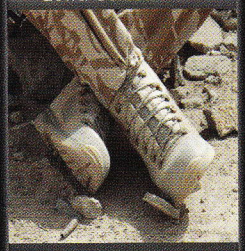
MILITARY EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS



EXPED Bergan Range

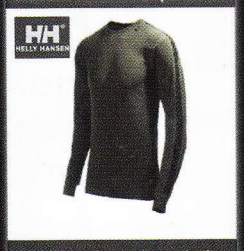
This is brilliant, kept all of my kit 100% dry, way better than the bags you get issued!!!! and it was cheaper than buying them seperately!

Lowa Combat Boot



Excellant pair of boots, does exactly what it says on the tin! Very robust and the boots are a dream to walk in. So much support is offerd by them even when carrying a load on your back

HH Lifa Top



My lifa top is a quality product! You would expect Helly Hansen to produce good kit but the lifa top excels. Its comfortable and even when wet mine continued to perform. One other thing about lifa tops they dry remarkably quickly.

RVOps Bivi Poles

These poles are the most sought after bivi poles on the market today. An absolute must for your basha these proven aluminium telescopic bivi poles are tried and tested in every area of operations.Black powder coated, these bivi poles are .....

Rite in The Rain

Rite in the Rain will, I predict,will take over from all other white plastic, petroleum based, waterproof notebooks. Rite in the Rain out performs on all levels, on price colour and environmentally friendliness too!! Once tried you to will become a Rite in the Rain convert like me.....

Bergen Covers

Large enough to accommodate a fully loaded bergen using the elasticated shock cord. Hi vis marker panel on the reverse for aviation ops,low visibility or emergencies. 2 Neoprene holes for antenna or rehydration system drinking tubes # Brilliant for CFT / speed marches on the road (reverse the cover so the hi vis safety panel .....

RVOps Head Office, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 2PD
TEL: 00 44 (1) 752 236143 / FAX: 00 44 (1) 752 672075 / MIL: 937846143

© D Hs

talking headsets

Protection Amplification Communication

SUPREME PRO X

Our top model. Digital electronics, waterproof. 5 year warranty.

SUPREME CC

Digital electronics, connects to two-way radios.

SWATCOM II

Waterproof throat microphone and PTT with outstanding voice clarity even in high noise environments

SWATCOM III

Sealed and waterproof throat microphone with integrated PTT switch on the throat microphone itself

Excellent sound quality With perfect location hearing, up to 4 times amplification

Compression of the sound instead of cutting off

600 hours battery life with 2 pcs AAA, fully waterproof battery compartment

Foldable, slim design cups for both right – and left handed shooters.

Supreme range fully compatable with Swatcom range.

We also provide 2 way radios and complete communication systems

UK distributors for MSA SORDIN

Talking Headsets Ltd Woodlands, The Bridle Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8UG, UK
T: +44 (0) 1243 573226 • F: +44 (0) 1243 574318 • E: info@talkingheadsets.co.uk
www.talkingheadsets.co.uk

SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE [SBS]

THE SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE HAS A LONG AND COMPLICATED HISTORY. PRESENT DAY UNITS SEE THEMSELVES AS DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THE ROYAL MARINE PATROL DETACHMENT, WHICH WAS ONE OF MANY SPEC OPPS MARTINE FORCES FORMED DURING WWII.

WORDS & PICTURES PAUL MONAF

THE SBS FORMS PART OF THE United Kingdom Special Forces group, alongside the Special Air Service (SAS), Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR), and Special Forces Support Group (SFSG).

The SBS is an independent unit of the Royal Marines based at Royal Marines Poole, in Poole, Dorset,.

The roles of the Special Boat Service are predominantly focused on, but not restricted to, the

- Coastal reconnaissance
- Covert beach reconnaissance (Hydrographic survey) in advance of amphibious assault
- Covert assault route preparation in advance of amphibious assault
- Recovery or protection of ships and oil installations subject to hostile state or non-state (terrorist) action.
- Maritime Counter-Terrorism
- Support to Police and customs
- Reconnaissance and target indication
- Assault on verified targets
- Personal protection of VIPs

The Ministry of Defence does not comment on Special Forces matters therefore little verifiable information exists in the public domain. However it is suggested an organisation split into four operational squadrons and a training wing, with a range of supporting personnel drawn from the Royal Marines, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the British Army.

The SBS is under the Operational Command of Director Special Forces, which allocates resources to the Permanent Joint Headquarters, deployed forces or other tasks as required.

Qualified personnel are known as "Swimmer Canoeists" and are employed in one of the operational squadrons, training wing or elsewhere in the RM, RN, DSF or MOD.

- Two squadrons, C and X, support general SBS tasks.
- M squadron is the Maritime Counter-Terrorism and shipboard operations unit.
- Z squadron conducts small watercraft and mini-sub insertions.
- Training Wing conducts selection and continuation training and includes a concepts and doctrine capability.

Personnel have previously been required to return to the main Commando force after the first three -year tour, potentially returning again after a short period.

The special forces element of 3 Commando Brigade is usually provided by the SBS, tasked from the Directorate of Special Forces.

HISTORY

At the end of WWII members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines returning home from small operational groups formed the School of Combined Operations Beach and Boat Section. The RMBPD was placed under the command of the Royal Marines. In 1947 these units were moved to the Royal Marines Amphibious School at Portsmouth. Here the new units were combined to form the Small Raiding Wing.

In 1950 this became the Special Boat Wing, made up of Special Boat Sections, thus reviving the initials SBS, members of this were among those who volunteered for No.41 Independent Commando, the RM unit that served in Korea 1950-51.

41 Commando was employed mainly on coastal raids, but also fought as regular infantry at the Chosin Reservoir, beside alongside the US 1st Marine Division.

In 1958, with six sections now in existence, the SBW became the Special Boat Company, separate from the Amphibious School, but still co-located with it,. It was at this time that the motto "Not By Strength, By Guile" was coined. This appears on the unofficial insignia of crossed canoe paddles with a frog on top of them and parachute wings above. Which believe it or not was stolen from a Christmas card design that the company sent out in 1946.

In 1971 the Special Boat Company first became involved in counter-terrorist duties. In May of that year a four-man team was parachuted into the North Atlantic to look for bombs aboard the QE2, following a terrorist threat. »

» The company sent teams to Northern Ireland for boat patrols on the coast and lakes, mainly to counter gunrunning. It also supplied volunteers for what was to become known as 14 Intelligence & Security Company. Beginning in 1975, 1 SBS was dedicated to the maritime Counter Tourist role, with the amount of oilrigs in the North Sea. It was also in this year that the SB Company became known as the Special Boat Squadron.

The SBS continued its training role in the 1970s. Previously it had helped establish the Australian Commando Companies and Malaysian Special Service Regiment.

Following the Falklands War. Two rifle troops were put under the command of the squadron and 1 and 5 SBS combined as the main counter-terrorist force. In 1987 the UK Special Forces Group was established, SBS now stood for Special Boat Service and its sub-units were now known as squadrons. The Marine Counter Tourist capability was consolidated as M Squadron.

PRESENT DAY

One squadron of the SBS was deployed to the Gulf in 1990-91, as part of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. They were part of a strong British special forces contingent, including most of 22nd SAS Regiment. The Special Boat Service conducted only one operation behind Iraqi lines that is known of.

On the night of 23 January 1991, helicopters to within 65 km of Baghdad flew twenty swimmer-canoeists, three US Army Special Forces operators and one US Air Force combat controller. Their mission, led by an SBS Lieutenant, was to destroy a fibre-optic cable believed to be part of Iraq's Scud missile command system. The team was extracted after ninety minutes on the ground. The SBS also secured the British embassy in Kuwait City at the end of the war.

Since the Gulf War the SBS according to reliable sources, have never been busier. The 'Blades' (badged SC ranks) are deployed across the world in traditional 'Green' ops in the world's hotspots often alongside their cousins from Hereford. There has possibly never been more cooperation between these two SF units and there is continuing cross-pollination between them in shared expertise. They also share together the burden of Counter Terrorist (CT) 'Black' role ops but the SBS specific are the acknowledged experts in the field of Maritime Counter Terrorism (MCT) surface and sub-surface. Along with these 'traditional' roles the SBS are also involved in counter-narcotics in South America, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Some say that the work of SBS 'Blades' goes unrecognised by the world's press as the credit is sometimes wrongly given to their more famous cousins. That may be true but if so, that is just the way they like it, as their motto states 'By Strength and Guile'. Some would say have been kept busy supporting Customs & Excise, primarily in intercepting drug smugglers.

Before its reorganisation in 1987, the-then Special Boat Squadron was about 150 strong, with around 50 reservists. Since then the force has grown, but to what extent is not exactly clear. According to a Ministry of Defence statement on force structure, there are four squadrons in the Special Boat Service. Presumably the reservists man one. M Squadron, the counter-terrorist force, consists of Black, Gold and Purple Troops. Sixteen-man operational troops are used, at least in the traditional swimmer-canoeist role.

SELECTION

To be eligible for SBS selection, a candidate must have at least two years regular service in the British Armed Forces. Formerly candidates were from the Royal Marines or the Royal Navy, but now volunteers are taken from any arm of the services. In order to qualify as a Swimmer Canoeist, Candidates must first undergo joint Special Forces Selection course held at Hereford before continuing on to the combat swimmer training before being becoming a 'badged' Swimmer Canoeist. Qualification as an SBS Swimmer Canoeist involves an extensive training course, building on the skills gained during SF Selection at Hereford.

- Diving both closed and open circuit - candidates swim underwater for miles in poor visibility completing complex navigational tasks and employment exercises
- Parachuting static line
- Demolition
- Infiltration of ships, in harbour and whilst under way, and oil platforms
- Canoeing - Use of the Klepper canoe during selection is extensive
- Further survival training in the wilds of Scotland
- Beach reconnaissance including photography
- Maritime Counter-Terrorism activities

Those who pass the selection course qualify as a Swimmer Canoeist (SC3) and are then probationers, advancement to Corporal and Sergeant are predicated on qualification as an SC2 and SC1 respectively. Advancement to Sergeant also requires completion of the Senior Command Course at Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, mandatory for all Royal Marines.

CREDITS

This article was compiled using staged photography and reference material which is in the public domain.

S.W.A.T.

SOUTH WEST ARMY TRADING

0845 260 7928

INFO@ARMY-TRADING.CO.UK

Unit 4, Kestrel Court
Waterwells Business Park
Quedgeley, Gloucester
GL2 2AT

SureFire - Viper - BlackHawk - WebTex - 5.11 Tactical Series - MagPul - Spyderco

MILITARY - LAW ENFORCEMENT - EMERGENCY SERVICES - SECURITY - OUTDOOR

WWW.ARMY-TRADING.CO.UK

DEPLOYMENT ESSENTIALS

WITH A NUMBER OF UNITS DEPLOYING TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN LATER THIS YEAR, WHERE LIVING CONDITIONS CAN BE CHALLENGING AT THE BEST OF TIMES AND WATER RATIONED (ESPECIALLY IN FORWARD BASES) RAIDER HAS COMPILED A SERIES OF DEPLOYMENT ESSENTIAL GUIDES TO MAKE YOUR LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE THAT LITTLE BIT MORE BEARABLE. THE AIM OF THESE ARTICLES IS NOT TO GO BACK TO BASICS, BUT TO LOOK AT PRODUCTS THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED OR IN FACT DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED. WORDS AND PICTURES PAUL MONAF

JETBOIL PERSONAL COOKING SYSTEM

The lightest, neatest and fastest cooking system around. Launched in 2004 and winner of the Outside magazine 'Gear of the Year award 2004', the Jetboil combines the stove and pot together to give super fast boil times. The 1 litre cup has the fluxring at it's base which doubles the effciency compared to standard stoves and pots. The Jetboil will boil 500ml of water in 2 minutes. This is approx half the time of a standard stove. Half the time taken means half the gas used or twice as much water boiled for the same amount of gas. The cup has a secure lid with a drinking spout and drip free pourer. The burner and gas canister (small size) can be stored inside the cup. The cooking cup has a neoprene cover and handle to insulate the cup and your hand. It also eliminates the need for a pan handle or grabber. The cover can be easily removed and washed. Spare cups and different colour covers are available so two people can use the same Jetboil burner. The burner comes complete with piezo ignition so there are no matches. lighters or priming required.

- Fits standard threaded gas canisters same as MSR & most gas stoves
- Weight only 425g (excl fuel)
- A comprehensive and well thought out cooking system.
- Gas canister not included in the price

Cost **from £49.00**

Available from
all good Camping stores

COMBAT SANDAL

These rubber toe protector sandals offer good foot protection but still allowing your feet to breath. The Combat Sandal has been used in numerous deployments in hot to jungle missions. Mainly used in Bivouac or barrack's after a long/hard patrol but still allows you to enter unexpected action and be effective.

These Combat Sandals are the ideal solution to hot Patrol tired feet. Made from neoprene with vented uppers the sandals are extremely comfortable and do not absorb water or sweat and dry out quick. making them ideal shower block foot wear

Cost **£24.99 in sizes 7-10**

Available from
Soldier of Fortune
Unit 18 Tyn-y-Lidiart Industrial Estate,
Corwen,
Denbighshire, North Wales
LL21 9RR.
Tel+44: (0)1490 412225
Fax:+44(0)1490 412205
Email sales@sofmilitary.co.uk
Web site http://www.sofmilitary.co.uk

PARA CORD

Parachute cord (also paracord or 550 cord) is a lightweight nylon kernmantle rope originally used in the suspension lines of US parachutes during World War II. Once in the field, paratroopers found this cord useful for many other tasks. It is now used as a general purpose utility cord by both military personnel and civilians. This versatile cord was even used by astronauts during STS-82, the second Space Shuttle mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.
The braided sheath has a high number of interwoven strands for its size, giving it a relatively smooth texture. The all nylon construction makes paracord fairly elastic; depending on the application this can be either an asset or a liability.

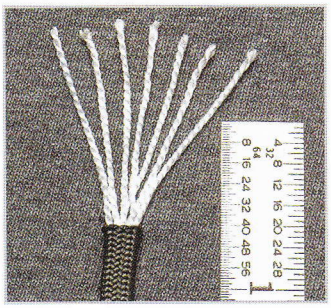
Despite the historic association of paracord with Airborne units, virtually all US units have access to the cord. It is used in almost any situation where light cordage is needed. Typical uses include attaching equipment to harnesses, as dummy cords to avoid losing small or important items, tying rucksacks to vehicle racks, securing camouflage nets to trees or vehicles, and so forth. When threaded with beads, paracord may be used as a pace counter to estimate ground covered by foot. The yarns of the core (commonly referred to as "the guts") can also be removed when finer string is needed, for instance as sewing thread to repair gear or fishing line in a survival situation. The nylon sheath is often used alone, the yarn in the core removed, when a thinner or less elastic cord is needed. Ends of the cord are almost always melted and crimped to prevent fraying.

In addition to purely utility functions, paracord can be used to fashion knotted or braided lanyards, belts, and other decorative items

Let's face it your not going to know when you'll need to tie something down or lash something together take our advise and keep a length of Para cord close to hand

Cost **from as little as £2.50**

Available from
all good Army surplus stores



PETZL TAC TIKKA XP LED HEAD LAMP

This little baby is nothing more than a powerful headlamp which has 3 lighting levels, Boost mode and coloured Wide Angle lenses and is the ideal light source for those dark evenings. There's no need to load up your rifle with unnecessary heavy tac lights, pop this power house over your head, ball cap or helmet and you have a powerful directional light source.

- Flood beam for sharp, proximity lighting (Wide Angle lens),
- Spot beam shines up to 35 meters,
- Boost mode : shines 50 meters for 20 seconds.
- Compact and lightweights
- Single compartment for LED and batteries
- less than 100 g including batteries.
- Battery level indicator light
- Water resistant for all-weather use.
- Strobe mode.
- 3-year guarantee
- Available in desert or woodland camouflage

Cost **£34.95**

Available from
Soldier of Fortune
Unit 18
Tyn-y-Lidiart Industrial Estate,
Corwen, Denbighshire,
North Wales, LL21 9RR.
Tel+44: (0)1490 412225
Fax:+44(0)1490 412205
Email sales@sofmilitary.co.uk
Web site http://www.sofmilitary.co.uk

GERBER MULTI TOOL

Go and buy one of these multipliers now. The mix of top-performance wire cutters, pliers (spring loaded - a nice touch), scissors, bottle opener, knife, saw and various screwdrivers, all wrapped in the smoothest design, is a joy to hold and use. It's the perfect complement for your multi tool - a serious piece of kit that we actually used to cut through wood, so it's going to handle the toughest of jobs.

Gerber inform us that if they tell you that this engineering masterpiece was inspired by the bridges of Portland, Oregon, don't make the mistake of thinking that Gerber's gone all misty-eyed and romantic over there products. On the contrary, the suspension has all the down-and-dirty performance and characteristics a tough guy would expect. This is a classic workhorse with spring-loaded pliers, their patented Saf.T.Plus™ component locking system, a ballistic nylon sheath, and the very same structural integrity that goes into every Gerber tool. And the open-frame configuration is something of a break-though where the industry is concerned. But just because it's got nice lines, there's no reason you can't use it in some pretty ugly situations. In fact they dare you to.

Cost **from around £20.00**

Available from
BCB International
Clydesmuir Road Industrial Estate
Tremorfa
Cardiff
CF24 2QS (Road Map)
South Glamorgan
Tel: 029 2043 3700
Fax: 029 20433701
Email info@bcbin.com
Website http://webshop.bcbin.eu/

CLOTHS PEGS

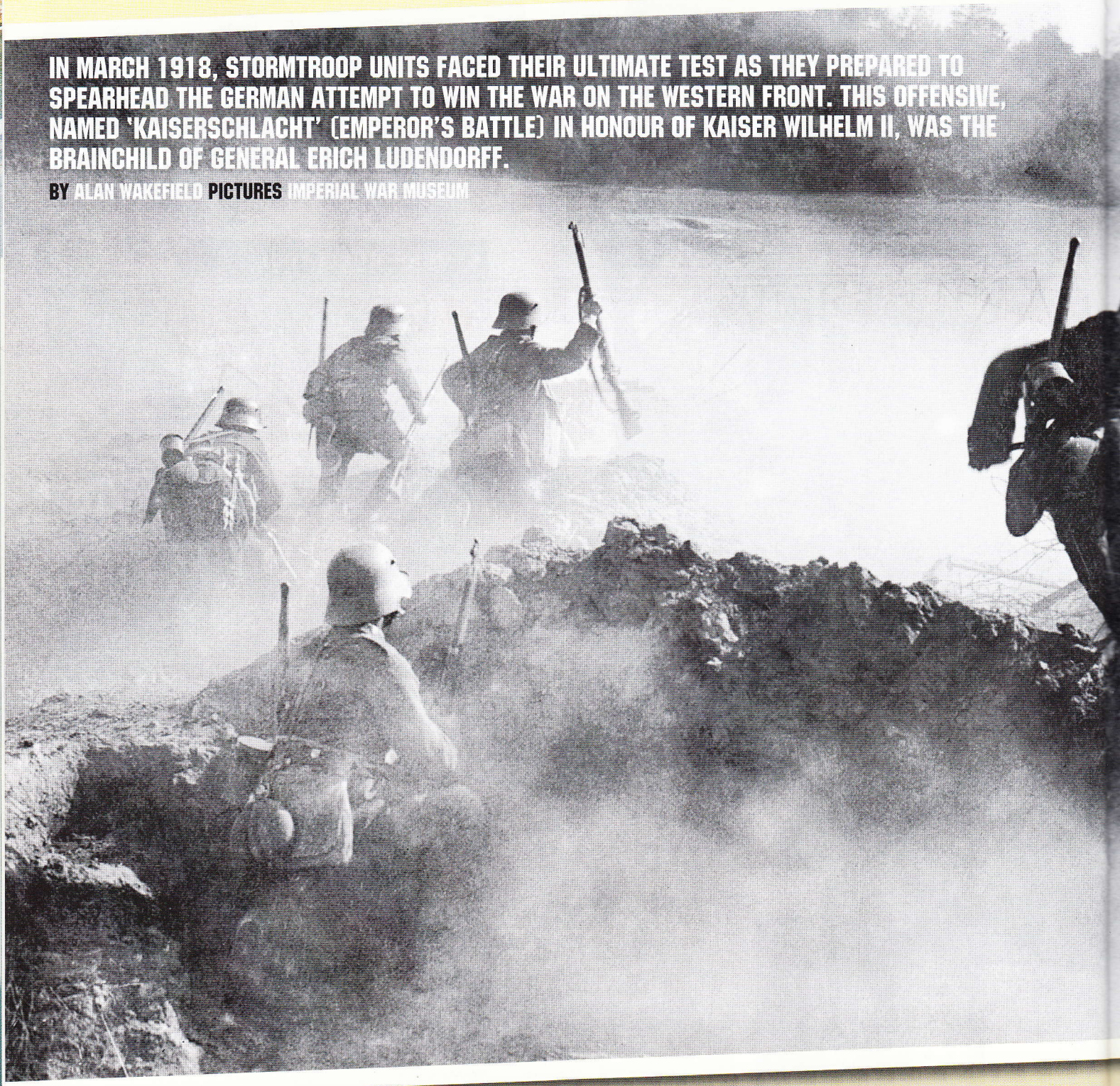
You might think it's somewhat farcical to include an item as simple as the humble cloths peg in a deployment essentials article, but you would be wrong. It seems its the most common thing you forget to pack, don't think for one second that its simply to hang dry your cloths as theres a few applications the cloths peg can turn its hand to like sealing food packs and fastening documents together. The possibilities far out way its original design so pack wisely .

Cost **from 99p for 100**

STORMTROOPS:
AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE DEADL THE WESTERN FRONT 1914-18 PART 2

IN MARCH 1918, STORMTROOP UNITS FACED THEIR ULTIMATE TEST AS THEY PREPARED TO SPEARHEAD THE GERMAN ATTEMPT TO WIN THE WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONT. THIS OFFENSIVE, NAMED 'KAISERSCHLACHT' (EMPEROR'S BATTLE) IN HONOUR OF KAISER WILHELM II, WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF GENERAL ERICH LUDENDORFF.

BY ALAN WAKEFIELD PICTURES IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



L OCK ON

AN ATTEMPT TO SNATCH VICTORY

In an attempt to snatch victory before American manpower tipped the balance overwhelmingly in favour of the Allies, more than 40 infantry divisions were transferred from the Eastern Front. This allowed Germany to achieve numerical superiority in the west for the first time since 1914, something that would have been impossible had not the Russian Army disintegrated in the chaos of the Bolshevik revolution.

For the offensive, codenamed 'Operation Michael' Ludendorff concentrated 74 divisions (over 1 million men). Of these, 43 divisions (German 2nd and 18th Armies) would be pitched against 12 divisions of General Gough's 5th Army, whilst 19 divisions of the German 17th Army would attack General Byng's 3rd Army, numbering 14 divisions. The remainder of the German force was kept in reserve. Providing artillery support for the offensive were over 6400 guns and 3500 trench mortars along a front of 40 miles centred on St Quentin and aiming at the vital British transport hub of Amiens.

"EVEN WHEN FRESH TROOPS WERE AVAILABLE THE GERMANS EXPERIENCED INCREASINGLY STIFF ALLIED RESISTANCE".

At 0440 hours on 21 March, the opening German barrage of gas and high explosive shells crashed down on the British battle zone, which covered 150 square miles. Four hours later the stormtroop companies moved forward to infiltrate through the defences. Thick fog covered the battlefield, which made countering the rapid moving stormtroops an almost impossible task. That the defenders had also been forced to wear gas masks for the previous four hours also reduced their fighting capabilities. The German barrage effectively neutralised or debilitated British artillery and communications causing great confusion, especially in Gough's 5th Army, whose defensive positions were not complete by the time of the attack. Following the stormtroops marched German assault divisions, moving 300 yards behind a creeping barrage that rolled forward at a rate of 100 yards every 2-3 minutes. Behind the assault divisions came other infantry to mop up final British resistance and secure the ground. After only 90 minutes of infantry fighting, 5th Army's forward defence zone had all but ceased to exist. By the end of the first day some stormtroop units had advanced up to 10 miles into British held territory. Overall, German forces inflicted 40,000 casualties on the British and captured or destroyed more than 500 artillery pieces. However, in strategic terms, only a quarter of Ludendorff's objectives for the first day were taken. Added to this, German casualties equalled those of the British but had fallen disproportionately on the stormtroops and assault divisions.

ALLIED RESTERANCE

With the 18th Army having made most ground, Ludendorff decided to reinforce this success by focussing his subsequent attacks along the line of the River Somme. Here he hoped to drive a wedge between the British and French Armies. Each morning between 23 and 27 March the German onslaught continued, with stormtroop companies continuing to exploit the chaos caused by early morning artillery bombardments and by 27 March, German troops had crossed the old 1916 Somme battlefield. However, a number of factors began to affect the advance. Key amongst these was the poor logistical support available to the German Army. This relied upon slow moving horse-drawn wagon columns, which found it difficult to cross the old battlefield and fell easy prey to ground attack sorties mounted by British and French aircraft. Not even the stormtroops could advance as they had no integral logistical support of their own, all their ammunition, rations and water being carried by the transport of infantry divisions to which they were attached. An additional problem for the stormtroops and assault divisions was tiredness. With no troop transport the offensive could only progress as fast as the men could march and with each day's advance and fight the pace slowed. This problem could not be offset through the use of tanks, armoured cars or cavalry to rapidly exploit tactical success as none of these were available in any number.

Even when fresh troops were available the Germans experienced increasingly stiff Allied resistance. This was most clearly shown by the failure of 'Operation Mars', Ludendorff's sub-offensive aimed at Arras (28 March). Here the well worked combination of a 'hurricane' bombardment, stormtroop infiltration and infantry mopping up strongpoints was brought to a halt within a day with heavy German casualties. Around Arras the British defences had been strongly constructed, offering true defence in depth. This, along with a lack of fog to help cover the assault and the fact that the Allies were simply learning to cope with almost unchanging German tactics, highlighted the limitations of the offensive system devised by Ludendorff. Although the main offensive south of Arras continued to make gains over the next few days these were of a limited »

» nature. Indeed the failure of the offensive can be seen in that the objective set for 4 April was not the capture of Amiens itself, but simply to move the frontline forward to a position where the city's railway network could be effectively shelled by long-range artillery. Not even this limited goal was achieved, as a counter-attack by Australian and British troops at Villers-Bretonneux halted the Germans nine miles east of Amiens and effectively brought the offensive to a close.

CASUALTIES OF WAR

In total, 'Operation Michael' cost the German Army 240,000 casualties, the British lost 178,000 men and the French 77,000. Although they had advanced up to 40 miles from their start lines, the Germans had failed to deliver a knockout blow to the Allies. Losses in equipment were quickly replaced by British war industries and gaps in manpower increasingly filled by US divisions. For the Germans such casualties could not be replaced. Losses in stormtroop units were filled by the fittest and most experienced men from assault divisions, thus lowering the standard of these formations. Beyond this, teenage conscripts were all that was left of Germany's manpower reserves and even they were not available in sufficient numbers to match the losses and their standard of training or morale was generally poor.

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

The strategic failure of 'Operation Michael' did not spell the end of stormtrooper led offensives on the Western Front as Ludendorff continued with increasing desperation to achieve a breakthrough. First came 'Operation Georgette' (9-29 April) in Flanders using fresh stormtroop companies and 8 assault divisions held back from the earlier fighting. Once again there were early successes with fog again coming to the assistance of the attackers. However, the British positions around Ypres were stronger than those faced the previous month and on 29 April, Ludendorff finally admitted failure in his attempt to destroy the British Army on the Western Front. By this time, German casualties stood at 350,000, with stormtroop units and assault divisions bearing the brunt. Ludendorff then turned his attention to the French Army. 'Operation Blucher' (27 May-3 June), 'Operation Gneisenau' (9-14 June) and 'Operation Marne-Reims' (15-17 July) followed and saw stormtroops cross the River Marne only 50 miles from Paris. But, each forward thrust brought fewer and fewer gains. In the latter battle, French 4th Army commander, General Gouraud, pre-empted the German assault with a massive artillery bombardment, which broke the offensive almost as soon as it had begun. This proved to be Ludendorff's last throw of the dice as on 18 July a large-scale French counter attack began on the Marne, followed by the British push east from Amiens (8 August), which Ludendorff labelled as the 'Black Day of the German Army'. From this point German forces were in retreat, the Allies successfully keeping their offensive momentum going until the signing of an armistice on 11 November brought the First World War to a conclusion.

"AMONGST THE LAST UNITS OF THE GERMAN ARMY TO MARCH HOME WERE MANY STORMTROOP BATTALIONS."

THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

However, in the chaos of defeat and revolution that enveloped Germany in November 1918, the spirit of the stormtrooper lived on. Amongst the last units of the German Army to march home were many stormtroop battalions. On reaching barracks, orders to demobilise were often met with distain and units refused to give up their arms. Volunteer corps (Freikorps) began to be formed by charismatic officers, many of whom were former stormtroop commanders. There was little problem recruiting men as through wartime propaganda the stormtrooper was given an almost mythical status in Germany as the embodiment of traditional heroism, chivalry and martial prowess in a time of mass industrialised warfare. Ex-soldiers and those who had not had the chance to fight flocked to volunteer and associate themselves with the legend. Between January 1919 – April 1920, these volunteers effectively formed the armed forces of the newly created Weimar Republic. Ironically, these men, who simply wanted to continue fighting, having little interest in the actual cause, helped democracy establish itself in post-1918 Germany by brutally crushing communist uprisings across the country and defeating incursions by Polish and Russian forces into German territory and the Baltic States. As the Freikorps began disbanding in the early 1920s, a new right-wing political party in Germany formed a unit to protect its meetings. The name chosen by the Nazi's for this uniformed force was Sturmabteilung (SA), copying the title of the first German assault units formed in 1915. This was a conscious attempt to try and paint the SA as the direct descendents of the stormtroopers. They were to play a crucial role in bringing Hitler to power in 1933.

In conclusion, the concept of assault units as formulated by the German Army in 1915 to test new equipment, weapons and tactics and teach new skills to the infantry was sound. However, the pace and growing scale of the war meant there was insufficient time to bring the bulk of the army up to stormtroop standard. This led to a change in direction with the creation of specialised units that would spearhead offensives. Over the last year of the war, this concept had an adverse effect on the quality of the German Army as the best men, equipment, weapons and supplies were syphoned off to keep the stormtroop battalions and companies in the field. However, the huge scale of the 1918 battles on the Western Front meant that there were always too few stormtroopers available to bring real strategic success. The heavy casualties these units suffered could not be replaced as it took time to train these assault specialists. The final flaw in the stormtrooper concept was the lack of motor transport, which slowed the rate of advance. True infiltration and breakthrough would have to wait twenty years for the technological revolution in armoured warfare that allowed the German Blitzkrieg campaigns in Poland, France and the Low Countries.

ORDER ONLINE AT

WWW.MAJORLEAGUESTORES.COM

MILITARY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & EQUIPMENT

MLS
MAJOR LEAGUE STORES

5.11 TACTICAL SERIES®

SUREFIRE®

SOLO INTERNATIONAL

BLACKHAWK!

WE STOCK BLACKHAWK, EAGLE, 5.11, SUREFIRE, SOLO INTERNATIONAL, E.S.S, WARRIOR WEAR & MANY OTHER TOP QUALITY BRANDS

97 GOSBECKS RD, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO2 9JT

TEL: 01206 760452

(BEHIND SOFTVIEW WINDOWS, NEXT TO TOYOTA GARAGE)

Arktis LIMITED

ARKTIS
Words...
Lawrence Holsworth
Pictures...
Lawrence Holsworth
& Arktis

"ALL ARKTIS PRODUCTS ARE PROUDLY MANUFACTURED IN THE UK, USING ONLY THE FINEST MATERIALS"

ARKTIS

BRITISH EXCELLENCE, GLOBAL MARKET

BRITISH DPM SNIPER SMOCK

ARKTIS LIMITED STARTED manufacturing military clothing and webbing for the individual soldier twenty years ago. At the time, deficiencies in issued kit obtained via the normal procurement process were such that soldiers found it necessary to buy their own gear. Further complicating matters was the lack of co-ordination within the MOD procurement system. This led to hardware being issued without the necessary webbing products to support it.

To fill this gap, Arktis frequently supplied the needed product well in advance of issue. In so doing, Arktis created the original revolution in commercially-available, mission-oriented specialist clothing and load carrying systems. Their big sellers in the early days were their legendary "Northern Ireland" chest rigs, their vastly improved version of infantry load-carrying webbing, rucksacks with detachable side pockets and their own-designed wind and waterproof smocks and trousers. In the early days you could also have your kit in any colour – as long as it was OD or British DPM.

In the last decade Arktis has become far more international, becoming a preferred supplier for most European Special Forces – often working directly with the unit to produce gear specific to their own design and specification. For example, a hybrid load-carrying rig for the Dutch marines, sniper smocks for the German airborne LRRPs and winter camouflage smocks and trousers for the French mountain troops. Today, Arktis clothing and gear is produced in over 18 different colours and camouflage patterns.

With the shift from the cold weather conflicts of yesterday to the hot climate operations of »

» today, the company developed clothing and battle vests that would be suitable. Arktis was again ready to meet the demand from day one because much of their design process occurs in conjunction with specialists "on the inside" well in advance of openly-disclosed foreign policy agendas.

Elite units whose missions include counter-terrorism, special operations, dog handling, EOD, and surveillance as well as peacekeepers from Bosnia, to East Timor, to Afghanistan, as well as expeditions to the Antarctic entrust Arktis for their professional needs.

All Arktis products are proudly manufactured in the UK, using only the finest materials and all Arktis products come with a strong warranty and assurance of complete satisfaction.

THE PRODUCTS

Arktis' R&D team have always believed in working closely with specialist end-users in order to deliver the required performance, design and quality levels for demanding environments and applications.

OUTER LAYERS

All Arktis outer layer smocks, trousers and shirts use their unique lightweight 50/50 cotton/polyester rip-stop fabric. Arktis are justifiably famous for their smock design which took the best features from the Royal Marines Arctic Smock and the SAS Smock and added design features and fabric improvements. The Arktis Combat Trousers are also an improvement over general issue British Army Combat Trousers, and like the smocks, come in waterproof, windproof and basic versions. The waterproof versions are very unique in that they use a soft, lightweight inner lining rather than stiff noisy outer laminates. This makes Arktis waterproof clothing comfortable, silent and multi-functional.

The latest addition to their outer layer series is the lightweight, unlined, well-ventilated Hot Climate Shirt for robust tropical and desert use.

MID LAYERS

A good performing insulating middle layer is essential for individual performance in cold climates. Arktis' products in this range include nylon water repellent fabrics for use in static situations, and flame and melt retardant woollen and wool-Nomex mixed fabrics for active or hazardous situations. The 70/30 wool/Nomex knitted fabric was developed as part of the Eurofighter program.

The Rainshield anorak and trousers are a highly breathable, lightweight and waterproof liner worn on the inside of a non-waterproof outer shell. The soldier can therefore operate with kit stored in all the familiar places, and is further advantaged by not having to carry bulky and heavy waterproofs. »

HYBRID BATTLE VEST
British DPM Camo

COMBAT GILET BATTLEVEST
French CCE Camo

LMG GUNNER VEST
Australian DPCU Camo

» SNIPER SYSTEMS

The sniper systems developed by Arktis are issued to Special Forces in several European countries. The system works on a layer concept, allowing for a full range of climate conditions.

BATTLE VESTS

Arktis Battle Vests are world-renowned – no surprise then that they won the Best Battle Vest category in the Ai Industry Awards. The theory that a half-dozen or so basic designs with fixed or semi-modular systems would ultimately prove superior to fully modular systems has so far held true. Using soft mesh, the vests are comfortable and light. "We want the product to be as flexible and multi-functional as possible." says Arktis MD Tim Holden, "Yet it's actually better to be near perfect rather than absolutely perfect – because the next war is certain not to be the same as the last one and you don't want your equipment to be over-specified and irrelevant as soon as things change."

LOAD-BEARING RIGS

Arktis load-bearing rigs define the standard for features and practicality. The company led the change in this field many years ago, and continues to develop their product line as missions and roles change. Consistent across the entire range is the use of soft mesh on the chassis to improve air circulation and reduce 'Bergen burn'. Also consistent across the range is their magazine pouch design that can hold up to four SA80/M16 magazines each (or three G36 mags), and can even comfortably hold AK magazines or a single pistol magazine. And because of an adjusting strap that compresses the pouch from the bottom, 'battle rattle' is also significantly eliminated.

"ARKTIS' AWARD WINNING BATTLE VESTS ARE WORLD-RENOWNED"

Chest rigs, originally for troops deploying to Northern Ireland, is where Arktis made their name. Their classic design of three central magazine pouches flanked by two large general purpose pouches and backed by a map pocket, has remained essentially unchanged for more than 20 years and has been copied by other gear manufacturers around the globe.

LOAD CARRIAGE, BIVOUAC AND ACCESSORIES

Of course, a soldier's load doesn't consist only of the ammunition and other essentials required for combat missions. You also have to eat, sleep, change your clothes, make sketch maps and range cards, navigate across unfamiliar terrain and even issue written orders and reports.

Not surprising then that Arktis also cater to all these needs with a full range of rucksacks, kit bags, sleeping bags, bivvie bags and bashas, map cases and document folders – they even produce a camouflaged laptop bag!

POLICE, SURVEILLANCE, SECURITY

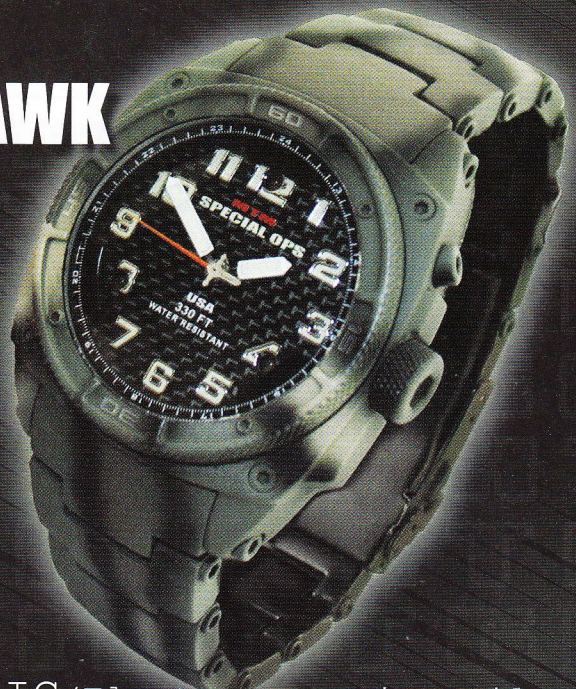
Demand for Arktis products also moved to those who work in overt and covert law enforcement and public safety roles. Arktis has provided many British Constabularies and their Police Officers with load bearing and foul weather gear and clothing. In this field of endeavour, as well as in their successful military product lines, the approach remains the same – design to the requirement and remain flexible to meet unforeseen needs that might arise in the future.

NIGHTGEAR.CO.UK

PREMIER SUPPLIER OF TACTICAL & COMBAT EQUIPMENT

For more information visit www.nightgear.co.uk or call 0871 218 1128

MTM CAMOUFLAGE HAWK SPECIAL OPS WATCH



- ECIC (Electromagnetic Coil Induction Charge) Watch
- Tri-Light system for map illumination & 1 Mile Signal visibility in darkness
- 100 Metres Water Resistance
- Patented Camo finish applied to Ion/PVD Plating

£479.95

SUREFIRE 6P LED

- 80 lumen output for 11 hours
- Virtually indestructible LED light Source
- Pyrex® Lens
- Weighs 5.2oz
- Weatherproof

£82.95

BLACKHAWK! Battle Bag

£95.99

5.11 TACTICAL SERIES Tactical Cotton Pant

£39.99

BLACKHAWK! Emergency CQB Rescue Rigger Belt

thigh loops not included

£32.95

ATN Night Vision Jaguars

£369.95

5.11 TACTICAL SERIES XPRT Tactical Boot

£119.99

ITS ALL ABOUT THE GEAR

OUR GUIDE TO THE LATEST & GREATEST KIT TO HIT THE SHELVES

BOLLÉ TACTICAL GOGGLES

FOUNDED IN 1888 BOLLÉ NOW exports more than 70% of its total production to over 40 countries Worldwide. Consuming a whopping 300 tons of Plastic material a year Bollé's ground breaking eye protection is present in all fields of activity such as industry, public works, construction, aeronautics and the military markets.

Bollé's sports range has enjoyed worldwide recognition for many years and they are very proud to have had the opportunity to support Ellen MacArthur and her team for the last 4 years and especially during her recent record breaking circumnavigation of the planet where she wore Bollé eyewear. Bollé is keen to work with leading sports men and women and there were in fact over 200 Bollé athletes at the last World Olympics. However, the safety range has also had its own share of publicity.

In 1997 Squadron Leader Andy Green, an RAF Tornado Pilot, set the new world land speed record at 763.035 mph, breaking the sound barrier twice in the process. He drove the 'Thrust' SSC (supersonic car) and wore Bollé's Chronosoft goggles.

Bollé's production process combined with their undisputed expertise in producing impact resistant nylon ocular surfaces has seen over 4 million pairs of their protective lenses sold annually.

Its no surprise that soldiers throughout the world are turning to Bolle for thier eye protection.

In actual fact there are over 15 pairs of goggles and safety glasses from their tactical range that would be suitable for deployment.

All of Bollé's products carry a V50 Ballistic rating, which means in simple terms V-50" or "Velocity-50%" - is a ballistic test where bullets are fired at higher and higher velocities until they start penetrating. The velocity of the bullets where 50% of the bullets DON'T penetrate, and 50% of the bullets DO penetrate is the V-50 rating for that ballistic protection.

In Bollé's case their lenses withstand a projectile fired at them at 250 meters per second.

BOLLÉ X500 TACTICAL

ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR Military and Police use this pair of PVC tactical goggles fits snugly to the contours of the face and offers the wearer great ventilation. The removable double thickness lenses are supplied in a clear anti-scratch polycarbonate (outside) whilst inside the lenses are coated with an anti-fog propionate.

The X500 have been designed with prescription spectral wearers in mind, the 10mm thick padding around the goggles has been cut away allowing spectral arms to fit snugly into the goggles.

INFO

£29.50
email: sales@Bollé-safety.co.uk

BOLLÉ CHRONOSOFT COMMANDO

AS THEIR TITLE SUGGESTS DESIGNED FOR COMMANDO UNITS, Special Forces Rapid deployment groups and Helicopter crews. The Cronosoft Commando's frame is manufactured out of Kraton Thermoplastic, which is resistant to very high temperatures, much higher than your average sweaty skirmisher.

Add it's double Lens system, which by the way has the same anti-scratch and anti-fog protection as its stable mates. You've got yourself a very stable, ventilated impact resistant pair of cost effective goggles that you know by its pedigree is going to do its job.
Add it's double Lens system, which by the way has the same anti-scratch and anti-fog protection as its stable mates.

You've got yourself a very stable, ventilated impact resistant pair of cost effective goggles that you know by its pedigree is going to do its job.

AT AN AMAZING £16.50 THE CHRONOSOFT COMMANDO GETS A MAJOR THUMBS UP FROM US.

INTERESTED IN BOLLÉ GLASSES?

Bollé Safety,
Tel: 0845 130 3905
Fax: 0208 770 1619
Email: sales@Bollé-safety.co.uk

MSA PARACLETE PLATE CARRIER

COMPATIBLE WITH OSPREY 10X12" PLATES

PARACLETE ARMOUR AND equipment began life in St. Paul's, North Carolina were under the direction of Colleen D'Annunzio (CEO) and Tim D'Annunzio (President and Chief Designer) have designed and produced what we here at Raider believe to be some of the best Tactical Nylon gear on today's market.

Today Paraclete Armour is part of the MSA group of companies and known as MSA Paraclete.

The word Paraclete you might think is a bit of an oddball name for a Tactical Nylon Company, however if you know your Latin the word Paraclete comes from the Greek word parakletos- "comforter" also a name of God the Holy Spirit who is also known as the Counsellor or Strengthener.

Lets put these three words together Comforter, Counsellor and Strengthener, its not a bad description of a piece of kit that in the real world saves lives.

Paraclete's plate carrier isn't the only version of this piece of kit on the market, but being the first goes a long way, its not going to be ideal for everyone out there, but as with its big brother the RAV we simply loved it. Unlike the RAV you are limited to the amount of pouches and pockets you can attach, but that's a good thing as you won't and can't overload yourself.

Imagine any MOLLE based system as a tool box it carries what you need to get the job done, how you carry that equipment is up to you it's a lighter rig, more ventilation and less restrictive and cheaper than its big brother the RAV, plus you'll have all of the real estate you need to function

The plate carrier on its own is a functional piece of tactical gear it does what it says on the "tin" its an armoured plate carrier. It has limited Molle webbing attachment points (twelve rows in total (six front and six on the back) It's a basic piece of tactical gear that was designed for a purpose (carrying plates). However add a Cummerbund to the package and it turns into a great lightweight piece of kit that's ideal

Paraclete offer a large range of pouches and pockets to attach to their vests, these are colour matched using Paraclete's EXACT MATCH webbing and tape technology, which means that no matter what colour piece of kit you invest in you know that the pouches and pockets and webbing tape is going to be an exact colour match

INTERESTED IN MSA PARACLETE PRODUCTS?

MSA Customer Services in the US

Toll Free: 1-800-MSA-2222
1-800-MSA-5555 (after-hours emergencies)
Fax: 1-800-967-0398
Mailing Address: Customer Service Center
MSA World Headquarters
P.O. Box 426
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0426

MSA Paraclete is also available in the UK through
Edgar Brothers
Lyme Green Business Park
Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK
SK11 OLR
44 1625 430330
Whole sale only

THE US ARMY'S COMBAT UNIFORM

FEATURING UNIVERSAL CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN (ACU)

CAMOUFLAGE BECAME AN ESSENTIAL PART OF MODERN MILITARY TACTICS AFTER THE INCREASE IN ACCURACY AND RATE OF FIRE OF WEAPONS DURING THE 19TH CENTURY. DESPITE CAMOUFLAGE'S DEMONSTRATED VALUE, UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY, ARMIES TENDED TO USE BRIGHT COLOURS AND BOLD, IMPRESSIVE DESIGNS. THESE WERE INTENDED TO DAUNT THE ENEMY, FOSTER UNIT COHESION AND ALLOW EASIER IDENTIFICATION OF UNITS IN THE FOG OF WAR. WORDS & PICTURES JOHN MCKENZIE

THE US ARMY'S COMBAT UNIFORM (ACU)

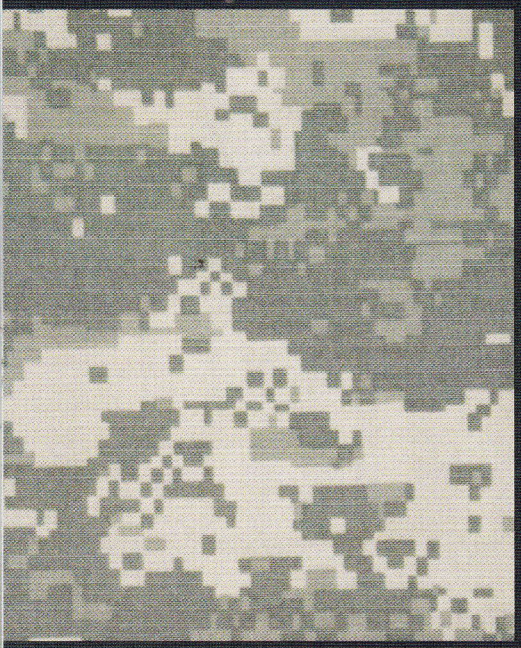
The US Army's Combat Uniform (ACU) is the current combat uniform worn by the United States Army. This new digital camo replaced the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) and Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU). It features a number of design changes, as well as a different camouflage pattern from its predecessor. The main intent of camouflage is to disrupt a soldier's perceived outline as seen by the human eye by merging in with the surroundings, making them a harder target to spot or hit.

UNIVERSAL CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN

The U.S. Army universal camouflage trials occurred from 2002 to 2004 with the goal of creating a single pattern that would provide adequate concealment in all environments. Four different patterns in a total of 13 variations were tested during the evaluation: three woodland patterns, three desert, three urban, three desert/urban, and one multi-environment pattern.

The Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP) found on the Army Combat Uniform emerged from testing of the four patterns.

The ACU uses a new military camouflage pattern called the Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP), which blends green, tan, and grey to work effectively in desert, and urban environments. Similar to the United States Marine Corps MARPAT and Canadian CADPAT camouflage schemes that preceded it, the pattern design is based on research into Dual Texture (Dual-Tex) Camouflage conducted in the 1970s. It also features numerous design improvements based on input from serving US soldiers. »



» The pattern was chosen after several laboratory and field tests that occurred from 2003-2004. Its digital pattern is a modification of the United States Marine Corps' MARPAT camouflage.

DEVELOPMENT

Six patterns were originally developed in early 2002 and reviewed for effectiveness, with three of the six designs being rejected due to limited effectiveness. The final three patterns were evaluated at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Centre, and four colour schemes were created for each pattern. The woodland patterns consisted of tan, green, brown and black; the desert patterns tan, dark tan, khaki and brown; the urban patterns tan, light grey, medium grey and black, and the desert/urban patterns contained tan, dark tan, light grey and brown. A common ground shade, tan, was selected for all patterns to allow individual equipment to be interchangeable if more than one colour scheme was adopted. The patterns were All Over Brush, Shadow Line

The colour scheme of the Army Combat Uniform is composed of a grey, tan and sage green digital pattern. Black was omitted from the uniform because it is not commonly found in nature. Pure black, when viewed through night vision goggles, appears excessively dark and creates an undesirable high-contrast image. In combat, the grey would tend to match the environment after use; for example, dust could cover up the grey. Grey is also a neutral colour and thus does not tend to catch the eye as more saturated colours would.

The Universal Camouflage Pattern was selected by the Centre's Individual Protection Directorate and the Supporting Science and Technology Directorate. Three patterns were developed, called All Over Brush, Track, and Shadow/Line. For each pattern, there were four colour combinations, which corresponded to a specific type of terrain; however, all four patterns used tan as their base colour. The three remaining colours were green, brown, and black for the Woodland pattern, dark tan, khaki, and brown for the Desert pattern, light grey, medium grey, and black for the Urban pattern, and dark tan, light Grey, and brown for the Desert/Urban patter

Following testing, the Shadow Line pattern was eliminated entirely, along with the urban and desert/urban patterns of All Over Brush. All four of the Track patterns were accepted along with All Over Brush's woodland and desert patterns.

The patterns were then modified and tested

alongside a newly introduced "Contractor-Developed Mod" pattern, Multicam. Near Infrared testing determined that black, medium grey, and medium tan were the only colours that gave acceptable performance.

The desert Brush design received the best overall mean daytime visual rating. Contractor developed pattern received highest rating in woodland environments, but low ratings in desert and urban environments. Urban Track was generally the 3rd or 4th worst performer at each site. Infrared testing showed negligible differences in the performance of the four patterns. Natick rated the patterns from best to worst as: Desert Brush, Woodland Track Mod, Contractor-Developed Mod, and Urban Trac.

US Soldiers have reported that while the pattern is effective in an urban or desert environment, it is less effective in others. As the Army is currently involved in the Iraq war; the uniform may have been biased towards the current operating environment. Only time and deployments to more greener environments will tell if Universal Camouflage Pattern remains the camouflage of choice for the US Army.

ACU

US Soldiers have reported that the nylon cotton fabric used in the build of The ACU does not breathe as well as the cotton Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCUs) and results in a hotter uniform in high temperature climates.

The uniform features hook and loop fasteners on the pockets. Although some concern has been expressed that the noise associated with opening velcro fasteners would give away a soldier's position in the field, although this concern has been proven to be minor issue with correct noise discipline.

The cost to each soldier is $76 per uniform, compared to $58 for a BDU, but clothing allowances in soldiers' pay have been adjusted to compensate for the more expensive uniform. All insignia is at an extra cost, as are name tapes and branch tapes. Soldiers who purchase uniforms from non-ACU approved websites or surplus stores generally have to purchase IR squares because these uniforms may not include this must have accessery.

THE ARMY COMBAT SHIRT

An under Armour shirt similar to BCB's UBACS has been offered up as a way of cooling down the US troops on deployment, but as yet Raider is not aware of any US Units actually being issued with this piece of kit.

The Army Combat Shirt, or ACS is a flame-resistant shirt developed for the United States Army as an addition to the Uniform. The ACS is a stand-alone shirt designed specifically for use with Interceptor Body Armour in warm and hot weather. It is intended to greatly increase user comfort through the use of lightweight, moisture-wicking, and breathable fabrics.

The torso of the shirt is foliage green with the Army Strong logo cantered on the chest; the arms are in the Universal Camouflage Pattern similar to the Army Combat Uniform, with integrated anti-abrasion elbow pads. No-seam shoulders minimize rubbing or chafing against armour. Other features include a double pen pocket on the lower arm, zippered storage pockets on the upper arm, concealable infrared identification tabs, and a place to attach name, rank, and flag on the upper arm.

The ACS is constructed of three flame-resistant performance fabrics proprietary to Massif Mountain Gear Company. The shirt's torso is constructed of two highly breathable flame-resistant fabrics with advanced moisture management capabilities. Both fabrics wick moisture away from the skin and dry rapidly, preventing the fabrics from sticking to the user's skin and greatly increasing comfort under body armor. The sleeves and side panels of the shirt are constructed of a lightweight, but durable and abrasion-resistant fabric designed to provide extra protection for areas not protected by body armor. All three fabrics feature 4-way stretch for enhanced performance and user comfort.

CONDOR | J-TECH TACTICAL GEAR | TRU-SPEC ATLANCO FOR THE TRU PROFESSIONAL | MULTICAM | PATRIOT Performance Materials | welico | PROPPER

Condor Outdoor Tactical Gear

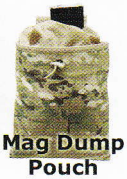
Plate Carrier

3 Day Assault Pack

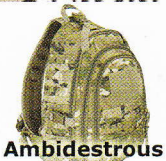
Padded Molle Belt

Osprey Compatible A2 CQB Pouches and T-Bar Buckle Kits.
Order 6 or more and receive 20% Discount
VAT Free BFPO Postage Available

Tactical Leg Holster

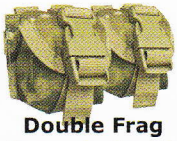

Mag Dump Pouch

Gadget Pouch


Ambidestrous Sling Bag

Double M4 Mag Pouch

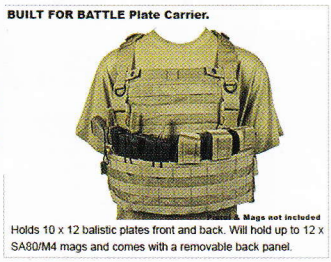
Tactical Response Bag


Double Frag Grenade Pouch

Tactical Cap

TRU SPEC Tactical Response Uniform

J-Tech Double Deck Gun Bag



Built for Battle PC, Vest and Pouches now available

www.onpatrol.co.uk

PROPPER UNIFORMS

Tactical Gear 0208 551 1535

EUROCARD MasterCard Maestro VISA SOLO

www.Gladstones.co.uk

ORDER LINE 01621 778 900

MAGNUM Amazon Black £55.00

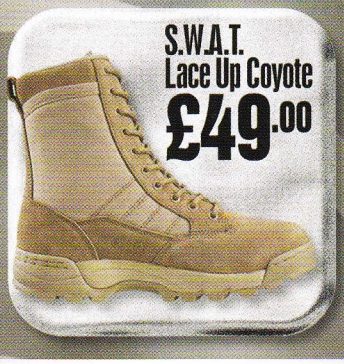
MAGNUM Amazon Tan £55.00

ADIDAS GSG9.2 £115.00

S.W.A.T. Lace Up Tan £44.00

LOWA Desert Tan £120.00

LOWA Combat £135.00


S.W.A.T. Lace Up Coyote £49.00

LOWA Patrol £115.00

Order Today Use Tomorrow

We are happy to ship to BFPO address if required

Gladstone Boots & Equipment

Looking After Those Who Look After Us

AGUSTA WESTLAND EH101

THE AGUSTAWESTLAND EH101 IS A MEDIUM-LIFT HELICOPTER FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS BUT ALSO MARKETED FOR CIVIL USE. THE HELICOPTER WAS DEVELOPED AS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN WESTLAND AIRCRAFT IN THE UK AND AGUSTA IN ITALY (NOW MERGED AS AGUSTAWESTLAND). THE NAME MERLIN IS USED FOR EH101S IN BRITISH AND PORTUGUESE MILITARY SERVICE. WORDS **PAUL MONAF** PICTURES **COURTESY OF THE MOD**

THE AGUSTA WESTLAND EH101/ AW101

In 1977, the UK Ministry of Defence issued a requirement for an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopter to replace the Royal Navy's Westland Sea Kings. Westland responded with a design designated the WG.34 that was then approved for development. However, the Marina Militare (Italian Navy) was also seeking a replacement for its (Agusta-built) Sea Kings, leading Agusta to discussions with Westland about the possibility of a joint development. This culminated in the joint venture being finalised in November 1979 and a new company (EH Industries Limited [EHI], based in London) being formed in June the following year to manage the project.

As the design studies progressed, EHI became aware of a broader market for an aircraft with the same capabilities as those required by the British and Italian navies. On 12 June 1981, the UK confirmed their participation, with an initial budget of £20 billion to develop nine pre-series examples. At the 1985 Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, Agusta showed a mock-up of a utility version of the new helicopter, leading to a more generalised design that could be customised. After a lengthy development, the first prototype flew on October 9, 1987.

EHI was renamed AgustaWestland International Limited in January 2004 when parent companies merged. Consequently, in June 2007, the EH101 was re-branded as the AW101.

The military version of the EH101 is powered by either three Rolls-Royce Turbomeca RTM322 turboshafts), or three 1,491 kW General Electric CT7-6 turboshafts TMP). Engine inlet particle separator systems provide protection when operating in sandy environments. Each engine is supplied by a separate 1,074 litre self-sealing fuel tank using dual booster pumps. A fourth tank acts as a reservoir supply, topping up the main tanks during flight; while a fifth transfer tank can be added to increase range, as can airborne refuelling. The engines power an 18.59 metre diameter five-bladed main rotor. The rotor blades are constructed from carbon/glass with nomex honeycomb and rohacell foam, edged with titanium alloy. Computer control of the engines allows the EH101 to hover reliably in winds of over 80 km/h.

WEAPONS

A chin FLIR is fitted to some variants. The EH101 (excluding the ASM MK1) is equipped with chaff and flare dispensers, directed infrared countermeasures, infrared jammers, ESM (electronic support measures, in the form of RF [radio frequency] heads), and a laser detection and warning system. It has two hard points for weapon carriers, on which the HM Mk1 model can carry four Sting Ray torpedoes or Mk 11 Mod 3 depth charges, though at present cannot use the Sea Skua missile. The Mk1, Mk3 and 3a variants can mount General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMGs) in up to 5 locations in the main cabin pointing out of door and window apertures.

CARGO SYSTEMS

EH101 fuselage has a volume of 31.91 m² and the cargo compartment is 6.5 m in length, 2.3 m wide and 1.91 m high. The military version of the EH101 can accommodate up to 24 seated or 45 standing combat troops and their equipment. Alternative loads include a medical team and 16 stretchers, and cargo pallets. The cabin floor and rear ramp are fitted with flush tie-down points, a semi-automatic cargo release unit (SACRU). The ramp (1.91x2.3 m) can take a 3,050 kg load, allowing it to carry vehicles such as Land Rovers. A cargo hook under the fuselage can carry external loads of 5,440 kg. A rescue hoist and a hover trim controller are fitted at the cargo door.

AVIONICS

The navigation system includes a GPS and inertial navigation system, VHF Omnidirectional Radio range (VOR) instrument landing system (ILS), tactical air navigation (TACAN) and automatic direction finding. The EH101 is equipped with

helicopter management, avionics and mission systems linked by two 1553B multiplex databuses. A Smiths Industries OMI SEP 20 automatic flight control system provides dual redundant digital control, giving autostabilisation and four-axis auto-pilot operation.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY

»ROYAL NAVY

The RN's final order was for 44 ASW machines, originally designated Merlin HAS.1 but soon changed to Merlin HM1. The first fully operational Merlin was delivered on May 17 1997, entering service on June 2 2000. All aircraft were delivered by the end of 2002, and are operated by five Fleet Air Arm squadrons, all based at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall.

In March 2004 RN Merlins were grounded following an incident at RNAS Culdrose when the tail rotor failed on one of them. Investigations later revealed that this was due to tail rotor hub manufacturing defects. Flights resumed the following year.

To date, nine Type 23 frigates have been refitted to accept the Merlin HM1: HM Ships Somerset, Lancaster, Monmouth, Montrose, Westminster, Northumberland, Kent, Richmond, and Portland, although the squadron that operates Merlins from frigates, 829 NAS, currently only has six individual 'flights'. The Merlin HM1 has also been cleared to operate from the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships and a number of RFA vessels including the Fort Victoria Class. The UK is considering the Merlin as a replacement for the Westland Sea King ASaC7 in the Airborne Early Warning (AEW) role.

»ROYAL AIR FORCE

The RAF ordered 22 transport helicopters designated Merlin HC3, the first of which entered service with No. 28 Squadron RAF, based at RAF Benson, in January 2001.

The type is equipped with extended-range fuel tanks and is capable of air-to-air refuelling; however, due to the lack of a suitable UK tanker aircraft, this capability has not been cleared for use. It also differs from the Royal Navy version by having double-wheel main landing gear, whereas the RN version only has a single wheel on each of the main gears.

The first operational deployment was to the Balkans in early 2003. They are currently deployed to southern Iraq as part of Operation Telic.

To alleviate a shortfall in operational helicopters the Ministry of Defence acquired six Merlin's from Denmark in 2007. These were delivered to the RAF as the Merlin HC3A. As part of the deal, the UK Ministry of Defence has ordered six new-build replacements for the Royal Danish Air Force.

VESTGUARD UK

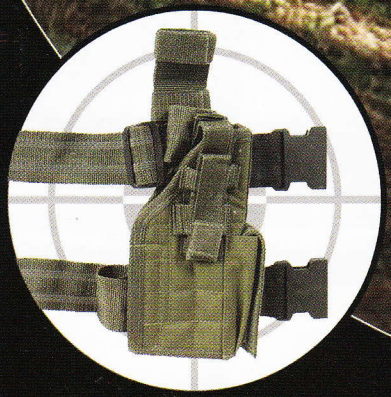
a great British company...

BULLET PROOF VESTS FROM £299.99

BALLISTIC HELMETS FROM £159.99

KEVLAR DEFENDER GLOVES £25.99

WILEY X EYEWEAR MILITARY SPEC FROM £69.99



ASSAULT HOLSTER £18.99

0845 601 6660
0162 181 6614

PATROL BOOTS £34.99

Seven Acres,
Seven Acres Lane, Barnhall Road,
Tolleshunt Knights, Essex, CM9 8HD

VISA MasterCard SWITCH DELTA DMA

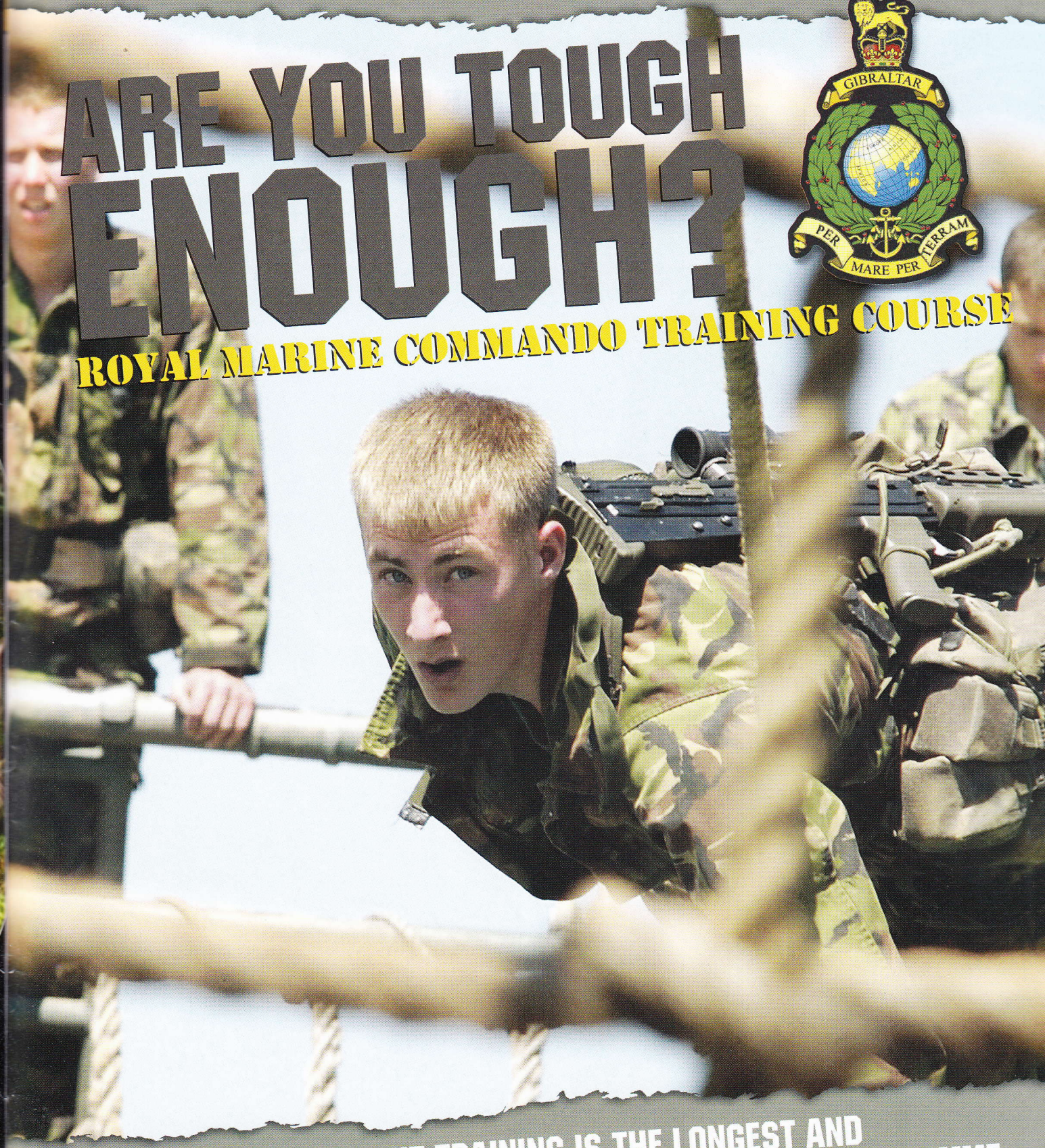
www.VestGuard.co.uk

All Prices Include VAT

VestGuard.co.uk

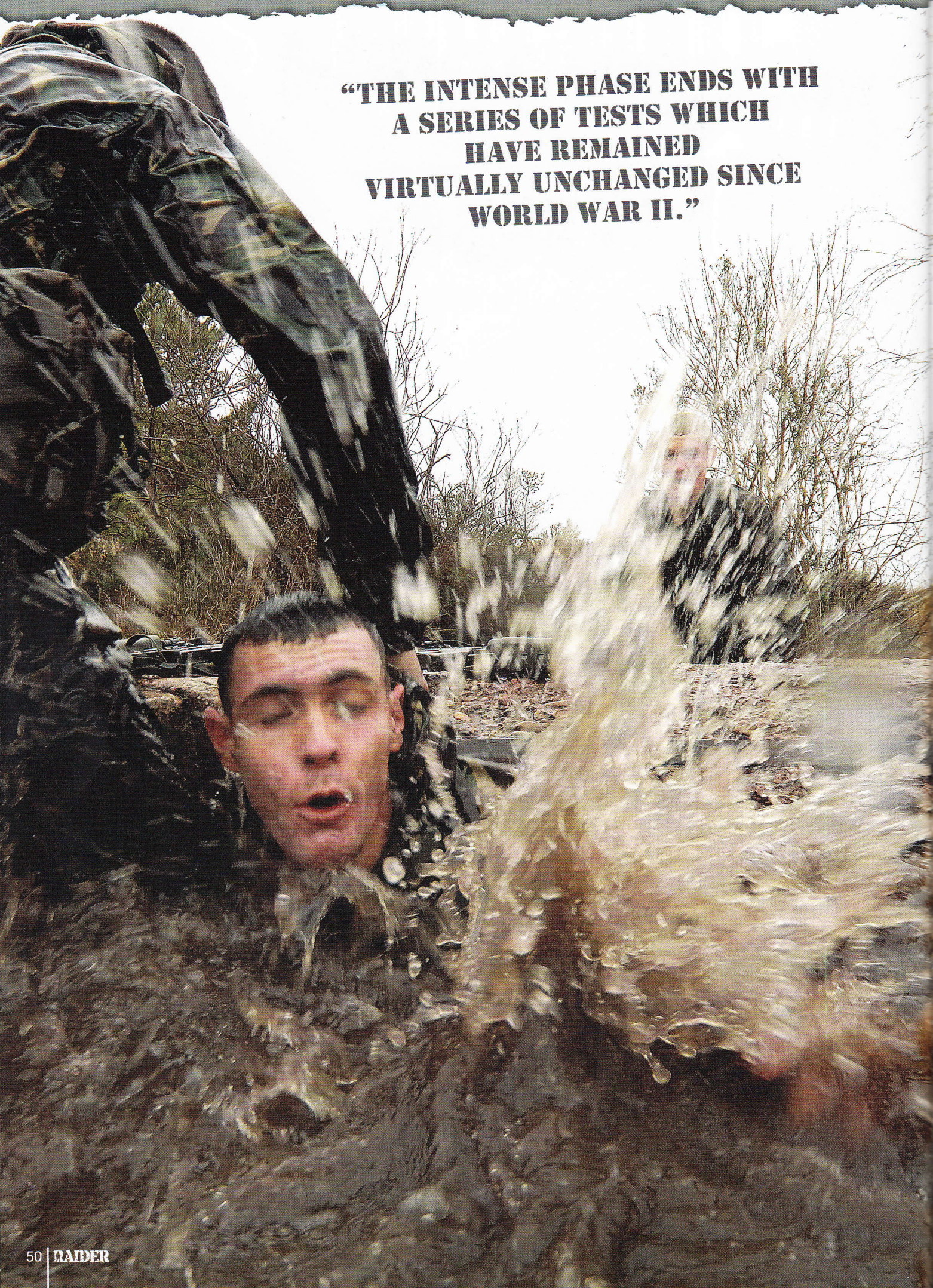
ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO TRAINING COURSE



ROYAL MARINES RECRUIT TRAINING IS THE LONGEST AND ARGUABLY THE TOUGHEST BASIC INFANTRY TRAINING PROGRAMME OF ANY NATO COMBAT TROOPS. THE ROYAL MARINES IS THE ONLY PART OF THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES WHERE OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS ARE TRAINED AT THE SAME LOCATION (AT THE COMMANDO TRAINING CENTRE ROYAL MARINES AT LYMPSTONE, DEVON.

WORDS PAUL MONAF PICTURES ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO



"THE INTENSE PHASE ENDS WITH A SERIES OF TESTS WHICH HAVE REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED SINCE WORLD WAR II."

MUCH OF THE BASIC TRAINING IS carried out on the rugged terrain of Dartmoor and Woodbury Common with a significant proportion taking place at night. Before beginning Royal Marines recruit training the potential recruit must attend a Potential Royal Marine Course (PRMC) held at CTCRM. PRMC lasts 3 days and assesses physical ability and intellectual capacity to undertake the recruit training. Officer candidates must attend a Potential Officers Course and, if successful, undertake the Admiralty Interview Board.

Officers and Marines undergo the same training up to the commando tests, thereafter Marines go on to employment in a rifle company while Officers continue training. Officer candidates are required to meet higher standards in the Commando tests.

POTENTIAL ROYAL MARINE COURSE (PRMC)

Is the Royal Marines selection course for Potential Recruits. The course is held at CTCRM, and is designed to assess a candidate's suitability for entry into the Royal Marines. The course is comprised of four Physical Assessments: A 3 mile run, Gym Test 1, the Bottom field Assault Course and Gym Test 2. The course lasts for a total of 3 days. Prior preparation is mandatory in order to be successful.

BASIC TRAINING

The first weeks of training are spent learning basic skills that will be used later. This includes time spent on the parade ground and on the rifle ranges. Physical training at this stage emphasizes all-round body strength, in order to develop the muscles necessary to carry the heavy equipment a marine will use in an operational unit. Key milestones include a gym pass out at week 9 (not carried out with fighting order), which shows that a recruit is ready for the Bottom Field (an arduous assault course), a battle swimming test, and learning to do a "regain" (i.e. climb back onto a rope suspended over a water tank). Most of these tests are completed with the ever present "fighting order" of 21lb (9.5kg) of equipment plus an SA 80 rifle weighing 9.7lbs (4.4kg). Individual fieldcraft skills are also taught at this basic stage.

THE COMMANDO COURSE

The culmination of training is a period known as the Commando Course. Following the Royal Marines taking on the responsibility for the Commando role with the disbandment of the Army Commandos at the end of World War II, all Royal Marines, except those in the Royal Marines Band Service, complete the Commando course as part of their training (see below). Key aspects of the course include climbing and rope work techniques, patrolling, and amphibious operations.

This intense phase ends with a series of tests which have remained virtually unchanged since World War II. Again, these tests are done with a "fighting order" of 21lb (9.5kg) of equipment plus personal weapon, another 9lb (4.4kg).

The commando tests are taken on consecutive days; they include;

- A nine-mile (14.5 km) speed march, carrying full fighting order, to be completed in 90 minutes; the pace is thus 10 minutes per mile (6 min/km or 6 mph).
- The Endurance course is a six mile, (9.65 km), course across rough terrain at Woodbury Common near Lympstone, which includes tunnels, pipes, wading pools, and an underwater culvert. The course ends with a four-mile (6 km) run back to CTCRM. Followed by a marksmanship test, where the recruit must hit 6 out of 10 shots at a target (which represents a running man at 200m). To be completed in 73 minutes (71 minutes for Royal Marine officers), these times were recently increased by one minute when the route of the course was altered. The Course ends at a 25m range where the recruit must then put at least 6 out of 10 shots on target without cleaning their weapon.
- The Tarzan Assault Course. This is an assault course combined with an aerial confidence test. It starts with a death slide and ends with a rope climb up a thirty foot vertical wall. It must be completed with full fighting order in 13 minutes, 12 minutes for Royal Marine officers. The Potential Officers Course also includes confidence tests from the Tarzan Assault Course, although not with equipment.
- The Thirty miler. This is a 30 mile (48 km) march across Dartmoor, wearing fighting order, and additional safety equipment. It must be completed in 8 hours for recruits and 7 hours for Royal Marine officers, who must also navigate the route themselves, rather than following an Instructor.

The day after the 30 mile (48 km) march, any who failed any of the tests may attempt to retake them.

Completing the Commando Course successfully entitles the recruit or officer to wear the coveted green beret but does not mean that the Royal Marine officer has finished his training. That decision will be made by the officer batch training team and will depend on the young officer's overall performance. Officer training still consists of many more months.

Training to be a Royal Marine takes 32 weeks. The last week is mainly administration and preparing for the pass out parade. Recruits in their final week of training are known as the King's Squad (an honour bestowed on the senior troop by King George V in 1917).

After basic and commando training, a Royal Marine Commando will normally join a unit of 3 Commando Brigade RM or Fleet Protection Group RM (FPGRM). There are three Royal Marines Commando units in the Brigade: 40 Commando located at Norton Manor Camp near Taunton in Somerset, 42 Commando at Bickleigh Barracks, near Plymouth, Devon, and 45 Commando at RM Condor, Arbroath on the east coast of Scotland. FPGRM are located in Faslane, Scotland.

Non Royal Marine volunteers for Commando training undertake the All Arms Commando Course.

There is also a Reserve Commando Course run for members of the Royal Marines Reserve and Commando units of the Territorial Army.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

Royal Marines may then go on to undertake specialist training in a variety of skills; Platoon Weapons Instructor, Mortar operator, signals, clerks, sniper, PT instructor, Mountain Leader, Swimmer Canoeist, chef, Landing Craft coxswain, Telecommunications Technician (Tels Tech) etc.

Training for these specialisations may be undertaken at CTCRM or in a joint environment, such as the Defence School of Transport at Leconfield or the Defence Police College.

Some marines are trained in military parachuting to allow flexibility of insertion methods for all force elements. Marines complete this training at RAF Brize Norton but are not required to undergo Pre Parachute Selection Course (P-Company) training with the Parachute Regiment.

Over the coming months Raider will publish an in-depth series of articles following a recruit troop from their arrival at CTRM through to Kings Squad pass out to see if you are tough enough to become a Royal Marine Commando.

COMPETITION

NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT THREE CHANCES TO WIN THIS CAMELBAK HYDRATION SYSTEM

HOW TO ENTER

SIMPLY ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS HYDRATION PACK?

A MOTHER LOAD

B MEGA LOAD

C PAY LOAD

CUT OUT THIS COUPON AND SEND ON A POSTCARD TO: **RAIDER COMPETITION**
EBCON PUBLISHING LTD
2 SHAW CLOSE, PENENDEN HEATH
MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 5DN.

CLOSING DATE **JULY 2008**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE: .....

TEL NO: .....

THE WINNER WILL BE CHOSEN AT RANDOM FROM ALL CORRECT ENTRIES. CLOSING DATE JULY 2008.

ebcon publishing ltd.

RAIDER

CUT OUT CUT OUT

First Tactical

www.
firsttactical.
com

REVISION
MISSION CRITICAL EYEWARE

TASMANIAN TIGER

T.A.G.®

ESS
Eye Safety Systems. Inc.

Mar'om Dolphin

5.11 TACTICAL SERIES®

BLACKHAWK!

BLUE FORCE GEAR

VANGUARD®

Proud to be the exclusive distributor for Mar'om Dolphin in the UK

CUT OUT CUT OUT

NEXT MONTH IN...

RAIDER MAGAZINE

» TRIED AND TESTED

» ON PATROL
3 PARA

» UNIT PROFILE
BRITISH ARMY GURKHA RIFLE

» MANUFACTURE PROFILE
BLACKHAWK

» DEPLOYMENT ESSENTIALS
PERSONAL KIT PART II

» BATTLEFIELD MOBILITY

» FIRE POWER

» ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH
ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO TRAINING

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE 19TH JUNE 2008

A British Company

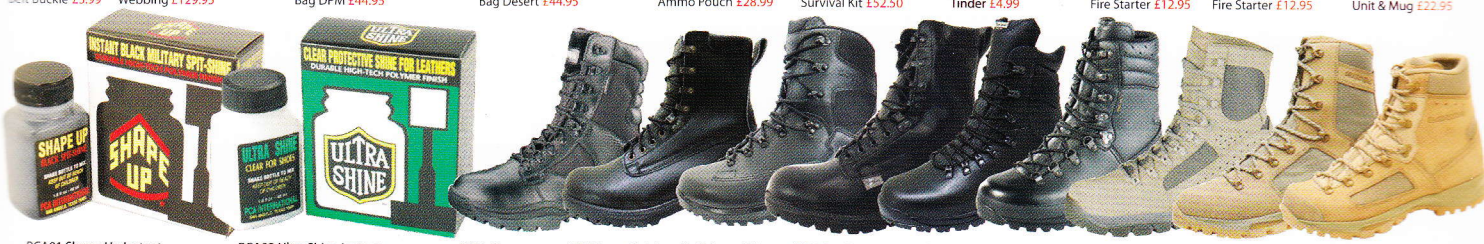
survivalaids.com

military survival and combat equipment for the professional

Telephone Orders: 01892 610 181
Fax: 01892 662 280
E-mail: enquiries@survivalaids.com
Units 9/14 April Court Sybron Way
Crowborough East Sussex TN6 3DZ UK

CR022 CamelBak Motherlode* £89.95 | ITW01 Web Dominator Strap Manager £1.95 | CB140 CamelBak Vent Glove £19.75 | CB129 CamelBak Fast Fit Glove £22.95 | CB149 CamelBak Magnum Force Glove £44.95 | CB123 CamelBak Hi Tec Impact II CT £39.49 | CB153 CamelBak Max Grip Glove £69.95 | CS133 Silvatech Soap Bar £4.50 | 7818-M Sage Deodorant Cloths £3.49 | 7503-M Sage Foot & Groin Cloths £2.99 | WT70 WebTex Wash Kit £8.95

VAN3087 Roll Pin Belt Buckle £3.99 | WE45 PLCE SF/Airbourne Webbing £129.95 | WE33 PLCE Assault Bag DPM £44.95 | WE33A PLCE Assault Bag Desert £44.95 | VAN3035 Leg Mounted Ammo Pouch £28.99 | WG900-0010-001 Aqua Survival Kit £52.50 | WG0412 Wet Fire Tinder £4.99 | WG0411 Strike Force Fire Starter £12.95 | WG0415 Blast Match Fire Starter £12.95 | BC45M Crusader Cook Unit & Mug £22.95



PCA01 Shape-Up Instant Finish £6.99 | PCA02 Ultra Shine Instant Finish £6.99 | AB51 Magnum Elite 8"WP £87.50 | AB30 Issue Cold Weather £69.95 | LL13 Lowa Urban GTX £124.95 | AB68 Pro-Boot Classic £105.95 | AB67 Alt-Berg Warrior £129.99 | LL04 Lowa Combat GTX £145.95 | AB286 Meindl Desert Fox £99.95 | LL15 Lowa Urban Desert £119.95 | LL16 Lowa Desert Elite UK £119.95

VAN120 Infanteer Model Kit £9.95 | OMP Opsak Multipack £9.99 | IN004 Phoebus Spectrum 3 £49.95 | G80016 Gerber Recon £25.99 | AB09 Wesco Camo Stick £4.75 | KD02 Camtech Desert Camo Compact £5.50 | CK03 Danger Mines Recognition Playing Cards £4.99 | CK02 Danger UXO Recognition Playing Cards £4.99 | CK01 IED Awareness Playing Cards £4.99

IRR

U.B.A.C.S.

Now available in DPM as well as Desert, the Under Body Armour Combat Shirt features a very high wicking Coolmax trunk with a zipped neck and IRR treated DPM arms. The arms also feature removable padding and upper and lower pockets. Available in sizes Small to Extra Large. CB220 £44.95

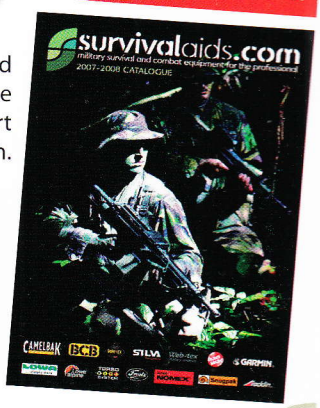
SP04DPM Snugpak Sleeka Original DPM £74.95 | SP42 Snugpak Elite Windtop £39.99 | SP43 Snugpak Elite Vest £45.00

VELCRO ARM PATCHES

These patches are velcro backed making them ideal for use on the Under Body Armour Combat Shirt or the Templar ID & Admin Pouch. Available in OG or Tan.

LUJP Large Union Jack Patch £2.80 | BGP Blood Group Patches £2.65 | GAP Allergy Patches £2.65

NEW free Catalogue available now! order online www.survivalaids.com



visit us at www.survivalaids.com

* Sales of knives to over 18s only

Viper

TOUGH KIT FOR TOUGH SITUATIONS

The real deal.

THE BRITISH COMPANY

For your local stockist and NEW free catalogue call 01234 740327 or log-on to our website at

www.viperkit.co.uk

THATCHREED LIMITED

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS

Main photograph by Cpl Andy Benson

© Crown Copyright / MOD. Image from www.photos.mod.uk